

# Rural and Small Town Canada

## ANALYSTS BULLETIN



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### Seniors in Rural Canada

*Kimberley Dandy and Ray D. Bollman, Statistics Canada*

#### Highlights

- Canada's rural population is older than the urban population. Within predominantly rural regions, 15% of the population is senior (65 years of age and over) compared to 13% in predominantly urban regions.
- Canada's rural population is aging faster than their urban counterparts in terms of the change in the share of the population that is senior.
- However, Canada's overall rural population is aging slower than the urban population in terms of the change in the number of senior residents.
- When we look at communities, a smaller share of communities within predominantly rural regions are aging by either measure, compared to communities in predominantly urban or intermediate regions.
- Among communities that are aging in terms of an increase in the number of seniors, most of the increase is due to the aging of the resident population. These communities are "aging in place". However, about 16% of communities across Canada are aging, in part, due to the immigration of seniors.
- Aging communities tend to have a larger population and tend to have higher incomes per capita.

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Low birth rates, longer life expectancy and the aging baby boom generation are three key ingredients that have created a demographic shift in the Canadian population. According to the 2006 Census of Population, 14% of Canadians

were 65 years of age and over (Statistics Canada, 2007). Never before has the share of seniors in Canada been so high and, as the baby boom generation enters this category in less than a decade, this share will be even higher.



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- However, Canada's overall rural population is aging slower than the urban population in terms of the change in the number of senior residents.
- When we look at communities, a smaller share of communities within predominantly rural regions are aging by either measure, compared to communities in predominantly urban or intermediate regions.
- Among communities that are aging in terms of an increase in the number of seniors, most of the increase is due to the aging of the resident population. These communities are "aging in place". However, about 16% of communities across Canada are aging, in part, due to the immigration of seniors.
- Aging communities tend to have a larger population and tend to have higher incomes per capita.

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The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 <sup>s</sup>	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

In this bulletin, we document the rural-urban differences in population age structure in terms of:

- a) the share of the total population that is senior (65 years of age and older);
- b) the rate of aging of the population in terms of two measures:
  - i. the growth in the *share* of the population that is senior; and
  - ii. the growth in the *number* of seniors;
- c) the number of communities that are aging by each of these measures; and
- d) selected characteristics of the aging communities as compared to communities that are not aging.

In 2006, 33% of seniors in Canada were residing in predominantly rural regions (Appendix Table A.16) (see Box 1 for definitions). Yet, predominantly rural regions accounted for only 30% of Canada's population in 2006. Hence, a higher share of seniors was living in predominantly rural regions.

In 2006, within predominantly rural regions, 15% of the residents were senior compared with 13% in predominantly urban regions (Appendix Table A.3). In all three census years examined for this bulletin (1986, 1996 and 2006), senior shares in rural areas were above the Canadian average.

Interestingly, predominantly rural regions have both a higher old age dependency ratio<sup>1</sup> and a higher child dependency ratio<sup>2</sup> compared to predominantly urban regions (Appendix Table A.3). This implies that the working population aged 15 to 64 living in these communities are

under relatively more pressure to care for both the young and old.

Senior shares are also increasing most rapidly in rural regions. A number of factors have contributed to a rapidly aging rural population. Youth are leaving rural areas in search of higher education, better job opportunities and more life experience options while the older generations are attracted to relaxing and spacious rural areas (McCracken *et al.*, 2005).

Why are more seniors living in the rural regions? There are a number of possible reasons. Certain rural regions are popular settlement destinations for retirees. As people end their career life, they

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1. The old age dependency ratio is defined as the number of individuals 65 years of age and over as a percent of the population 15 to 64 years of age.

2. The child dependency ratio is defined as the number of children less than 15 years of age as a percent of the population 15 to 64 years of age.

## Box 1 Definitions – Geography

**Rural:** Statistics Canada uses various definitions of rural depending on the focus of analysis. This bulletin follows the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) regional typology which defines a 'predominantly rural region' as having more than 50% of its population living in rural communities. A 'rural community' has a population density of less than 150 persons per square kilometre. In Canada, census divisions are used to represent regions and census consolidated sub-divisions are used to represent communities (see below).

**Census division (CD):** Census division is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as county, *municipalité régionale de comté* and regional district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province level and the municipality (census subdivision).

**Census subdivision (CSD):** Census subdivisions are municipalities (i.e. incorporated towns, rural municipalities, cities, etc. determined by provincial legislation) or their equivalent such as Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories.

**Census consolidated subdivision (CCS):** A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a grouping of census subdivisions. The general case is where a small town (i.e. a CSD) is surrounded by other rural municipalities (i.e. other CSDs) and this grouping of CSDs is consolidated to form a CCS for statistical purposes. For details, see Statistics Canada (2002).

There were 2,607 CCSs in Canada in 1996. Please note that only 2,455 of 2,607 CCSs were included in the quintile analysis and the analysis of community aging patterns. The excluded 152 communities were removed either because the population of the community was 250 people or less and/or because there was no data provided for at least one of the years analysed.

**Communities:** In this bulletin, communities are defined as CCSs. A rural community is a CCS with less than 150 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

**Region** is defined using the OECD classification scheme.

**Predominantly urban regions** are census divisions where less than 15% of the population lives in rural communities while **Intermediate regions** are census divisions where between 15% and 50% of the population lives in a rural community.

**Predominantly rural regions** are census divisions where more than 50% of the population lives in a rural community.

Predominantly rural regions are further broken down to recognize diversity among the rural regions.

**Rural metro-adjacent regions:** predominantly rural census divisions which are adjacent to metropolitan centres.

**Rural non-metro-adjacent regions:** predominantly rural census divisions which are not adjacent to metropolitan centres.

**Rural northern regions:** Here, the designation of census divisions to "northern" that was used when Beale Codes were assigned to Canadian census divisions is used. For details, see du Plessis *et al.* (2002). The 10 Beale Codes were designed for use in the USA. However, they did not include anything like Canada's north so an eleventh code was added. This extra code includes census divisions that are found entirely, or a majority, above the following lines of parallel in each province: Newfoundland, 50<sup>th</sup>; Quebec and Ontario, 49<sup>th</sup>; Manitoba, 53<sup>rd</sup>, and Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, 54<sup>th</sup>. As well, rural northern regions include all of the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories.

take advantage of rural amenities. Other rural communities are getting older simply because their population is aging in place (McCracken *et al.*, 2005).

**The population in predominantly rural regions is relatively older – excluding the northern regions, predominantly rural regions have the highest senior shares in the country**

Rural metro-adjacent and rural non-metro-adjacent regions have higher senior shares than other types of regions in Canada (Figure 1). This holds true for all three census years examined. Between 1986 and 2006 the share of seniors within predominantly rural regions ranged from 11% to 15% (Appendix Table A.3). During the same time period, the senior shares in predominantly urban regions ranged from 10% to 13%. The share of seniors in urban areas is probably lower because younger people are migrating to cities and new immigrants are choosing to settle in cities.

In rural northern regions the share of seniors stayed below 10% during those same years. This is due, in part, to the higher proportion of Aboriginal people in the rural northern regions and their higher birth rates. Turcotte and Schellenberg (2006) indicated that although Aboriginal communities are still relatively youthful, they too are aging as life expectancies continue to increase and birth rates decline.

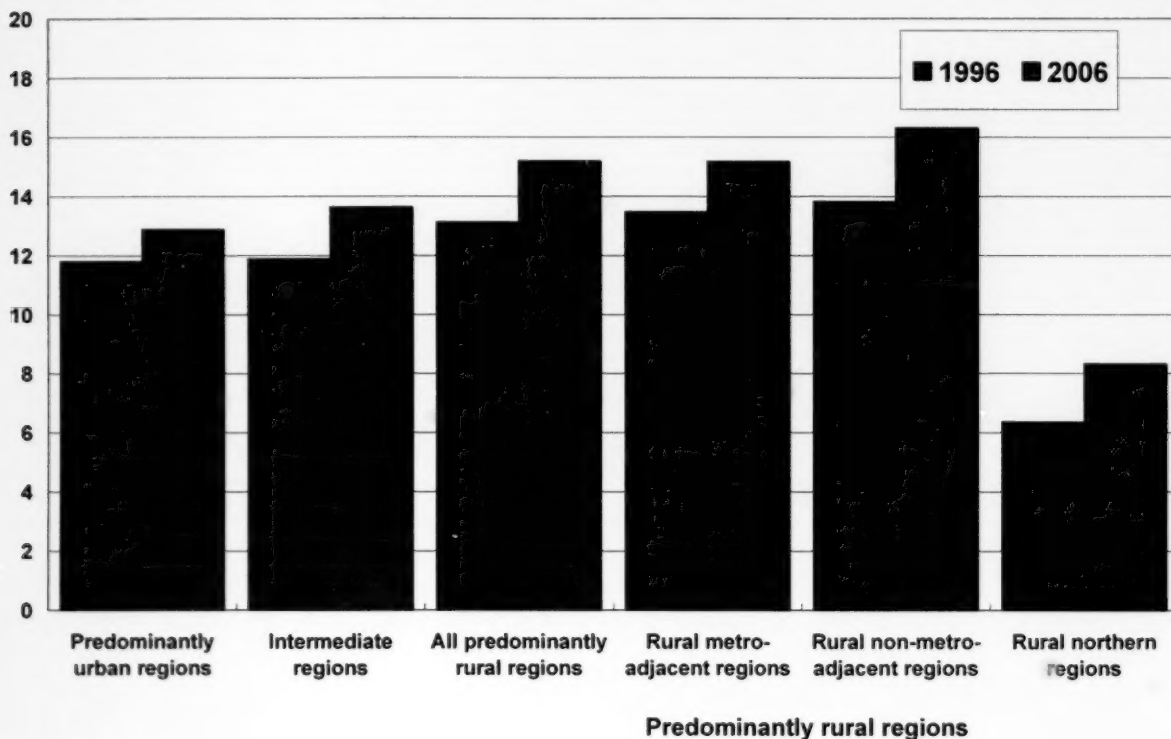
However, life expectancies of Aboriginal people still remain lower than the non-Aboriginal population.

This paper initially reviews the general pattern of aging across types of regions and then goes on to show the number and characteristics of aging communities.



**Figure 1 In 2006, 16 % of the population in rural non-metro-adjacent regions was 65 years of age or older**

percent of the population that is senior (65 years of age and over)

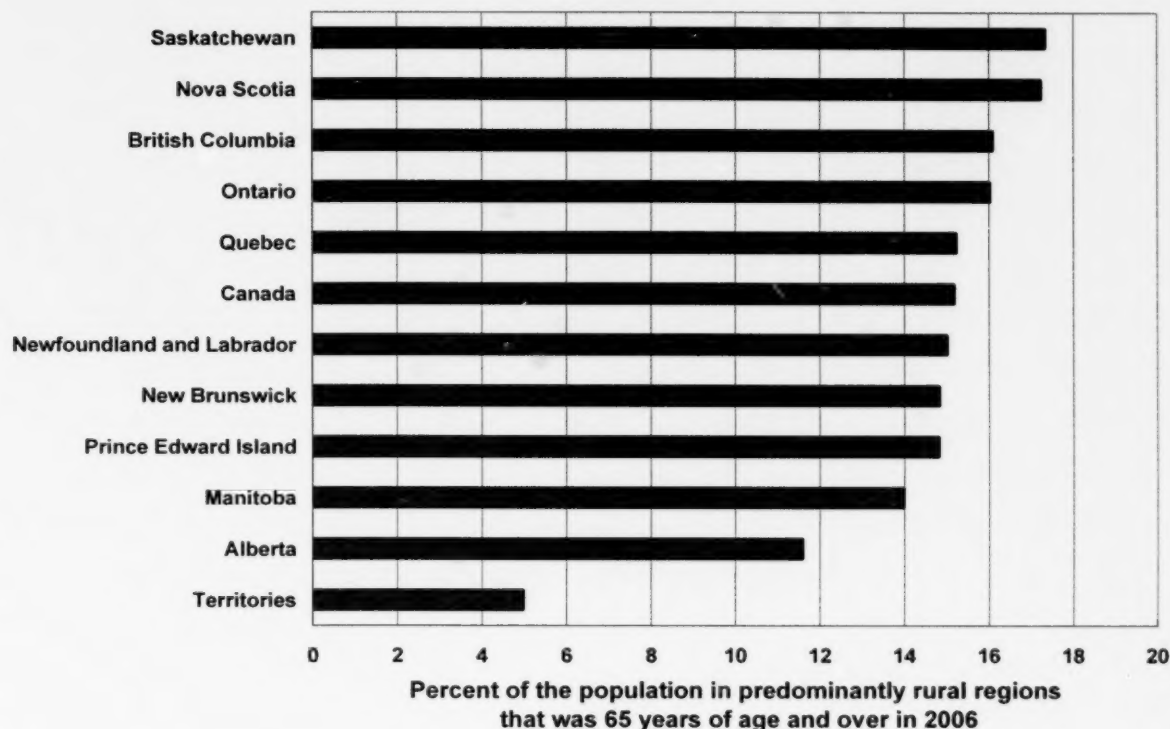


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996 and 2006.

Not surprisingly, the share of seniors within predominantly rural regions varies across the provinces and Territories. The population in predominantly rural regions of Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia is relatively older – 17% were 65

years of age or older in 2006 (Figure 2). The Territories (i.e. Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) are relatively younger with only 5% of the population being 65 years of age or older.

**Figure 2 In the predominantly rural regions of Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, 17% of the population was senior (65 years of age and over), 2006**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.

### Communities in rural non-metro-adjacent regions are more likely to have a higher share of seniors

The 2,455 communities used in this analysis (see Box 1) were ranked from smallest to largest in terms of the share of their population that was 65 years of age and over. The cut-off to be in the top 20% (i.e., the top quintile) was 13.5% in 1986, 15.8% in 1996 and 19.7% in 2006. If communities in both rural and urban regions showed the same distribution in terms of the share of the population that was senior, we would expect that 20% of the communities in each type

of region would be above the national cut-off for the top quintile. In fact, in each of 1986, 1996 and 2006, a higher proportion of communities within rural regions was above this cut-off. Specifically, 25% or more of the communities within rural non-metro-adjacent regions had senior shares in the top quintile (Table 1). In contrast, only a very small percent of communities classified within predominantly urban regions were in the top quintile. Following the discussion above, it was not surprising that not one community in Canada's rural northern regions was in the top quintile for the years 1986 and 1996.



**Table 1 In 2006, 27% of the communities in rural non-metro-adjacent regions ranked in the national top quintile for the share of the community population being senior**

Type of region in which the community is located	Communities in the (national) top quintile for the share of seniors <sup>2</sup>		
	Years		
	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	2006
	percent		
Predominantly urban regions	4	3	1
Intermediate regions	13	13	12
All predominantly rural regions	23	23	23
Rural metro-adjacent regions	21	18	18
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	25	27	27
Rural northern regions	0	0	3
All regions	20	20	20

1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. When all communities in Canada were ranked according to the share of the population that was senior (65 years of age and over) in 1986, at least 13.5% of the population had to be seniors for the community to be in the top one-fifth. By 1996, this requirement had increased to 15.8% and to 19.7% in 2006.

Note: Communities are defined as 'census consolidated subdivisions'. Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

## Rural regions have the highest old age dependency ratios in the country

With the exception of rural northern regions, predominantly rural regions had the highest old age dependency ratio in all three census years. The old age dependency ratio for rural metro-adjacent regions and rural non-metro-adjacent regions varied between 17% and 25% (Appendix Table A.3). Predominantly urban regions had an old age dependency ratio of 14% in 1986 and 18% in 2006. In both years, rural northern regions had an old age dependency ratio of less than 10%. In 2006, the old age dependency ratio was somewhat lower in rural metro-adjacent regions than in rural non-metro-adjacent regions. Bollman (2000) suggests that young adults are moving to rural areas adjacent to cities for cheaper housing and more space to raise their children while still being able to commute to the city for work. This could partially explain why the old age dependency ratio is lower in rural metro-adjacent regions than in rural non-metro-adjacent regions.

Similar to the share of seniors, the top quintile of communities with the highest old age dependency ratios in the country was also examined. In 2006, 27% of the communities in rural non-metro-adjacent regions were in this top quintile (Table 2). In comparison, only 3% of rural northern regions and 2% of predominantly urban regions were in the top old age dependency ratio quintile.

## Rural regions also have some of the highest child dependency ratios in Canada

In all three years examined, rural regions had a child dependency ratio that was higher than the Canadian average. Child dependency ratios have

remained the lowest in predominantly urban regions. Rural northern regions had the highest child dependency ratio in the country, which is likely due to the higher birth rates associated with their Aboriginal population.

**Table 2 Communities in rural non-metro-adjacent regions are relatively older – these regions have the highest share of communities ranking in the national top quintile for the old age dependency ratio**

Type of region in which the community is located	Communities in the (national) top quintile for old age dependency ratio <sup>2</sup>		
	Years		
	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	2006
	percent		
Predominantly urban regions	4	4	2
Intermediate regions	12	12	13
All predominantly rural regions	23	23	23
Rural metro-adjacent regions	22	19	18
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	25	26	27
Rural northern regions	0	0	3
All regions	20	20	20

1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. When all communities in Canada were ranked according to the share of the population that was senior (65 years of age and over) in 1986, at least 22.9% of the population had to be seniors for the community to be in the top one-fifth. By 1996, this requirement had increased to 26.2% and to 30.0% in 2006.

Note: Communities are defined as 'census consolidated subdivisions'. Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

## Two ways to measure community aging

The issue of the age of residents across the types of regions was addressed above. In short:

- a) the population of predominantly rural regions is older; and
- b) a higher share of the communities in predominantly rural regions is older.

However, the idea of “aging” implies looking at changes over time. During the years examined, was the rural population aging faster or slower than the urban population? The answer depends on how aging is defined. There are (at least) two ways of measuring aging.

One way to account for aging is to measure the *increase in share* of the population that is senior. If a region is aging rapidly in this way, there will likely be increased pressure on the younger generations to take care of the older population.

That being said, McCracken *et al.* (2005) indicated that seniors are now living healthier and more active lives than ever before and are more able to care for themselves. Arguably, it is only the elderly (say, over 80 years of age) who require significant aid from others. Rothwell *et al.* (2002) indicated that there are more people 70 years of age and older who are moving out of the rural areas than are moving into rural areas. This outward-migration pattern likely indicates that the elderly are moving or returning to urban areas to have better access to specialized medical facilities.

A second way to measure aging is the *increase in the absolute number* of seniors. A region that is aging in this way would require more services for

senior citizens, such as senior recreational activities, retirement homes and geriatric providers.

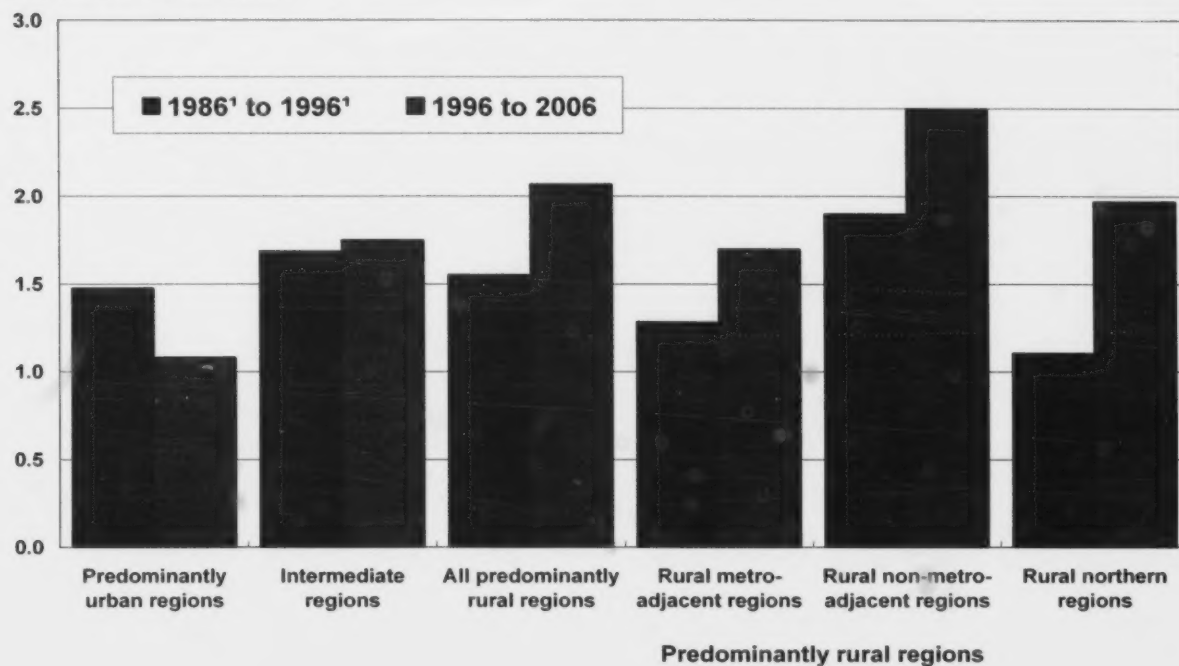
## Rural is aging faster than urban – senior shares are increasing most rapidly in rural non-metro-adjacent regions

Rural non-metro-adjacent regions were aging the fastest in terms of their growth in the share of seniors (Figure 3). This was probably related to the out-migration of youth and/or the in-migration of seniors to retirement towns located in the countryside. The slowest growth in the share of seniors between 1986 and 1996 was seen in rural northern regions which had only a 1.1 percentage point increase. In contrast, between 1996 and 2006 the slowest growth was in predominantly urban regions. For all regions, with the exception of predominantly urban regions, the share of seniors increased more rapidly during the 1996 to 2006 time period.

Because predominantly urban regions account for such a high proportion of the overall Canadian population, the share of seniors in Canada as a whole (shown in Figure B.5 in Appendix B) follows a similar pattern to the predominantly urban regions in Figure 3. In Canada as a whole, aging (as measured by the change in share of seniors) was slower from 1996 to 2006 compared to 1986 to 1996. The pattern in intermediate and predominantly rural regions was counter to the overall Canadian pattern.

**Figure 3 Rural non-metro-adjacent regions have the largest growth in the share of their population that is senior**

change in the share (i.e. percentage point change) of the population that is senior (65 years of age and over)

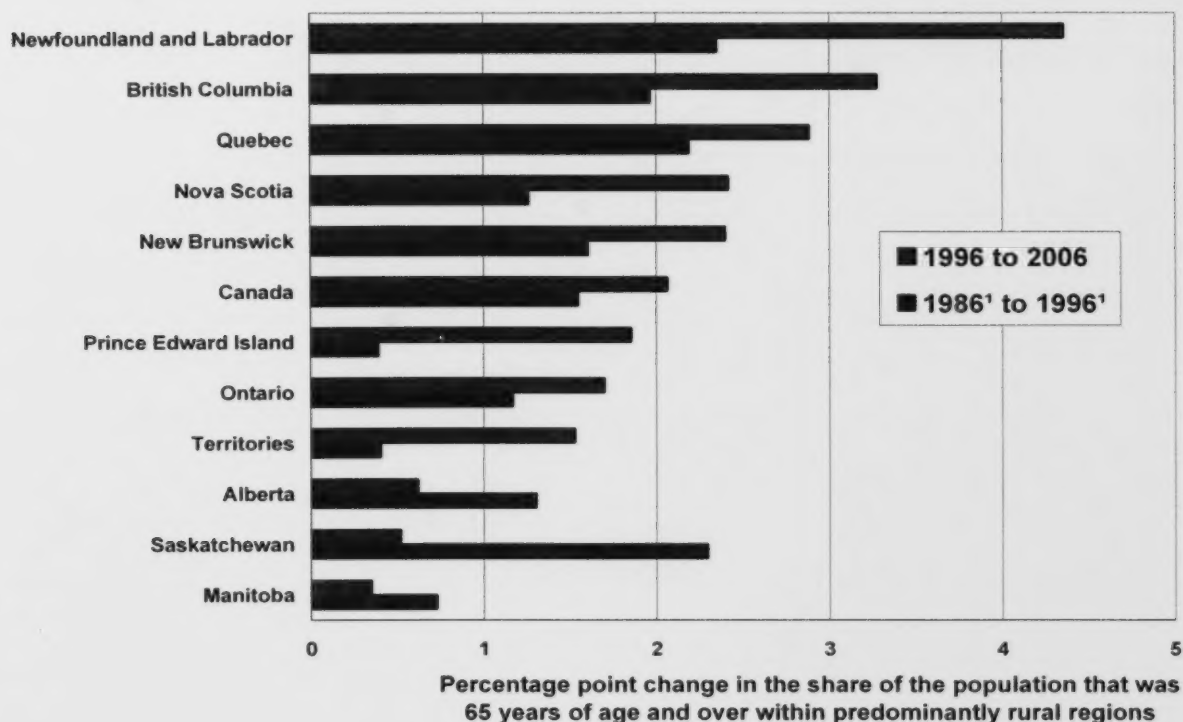


1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).  
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

At the Canada level, predominantly rural regions saw a 2.1 percentage point increase in the share of the senior population in the 1996 to 2006 period. This measure varied considerably across the provinces and Territories. In Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia, this share

increased by over 3 percentage points whereas it increased by less than 1 percentage point in the three Prairie Provinces (Figure 4).

**Figure 4** In the predominantly rural regions of Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia, the senior share of the total population increased by over 3 percentage points from 1996 to 2006



1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

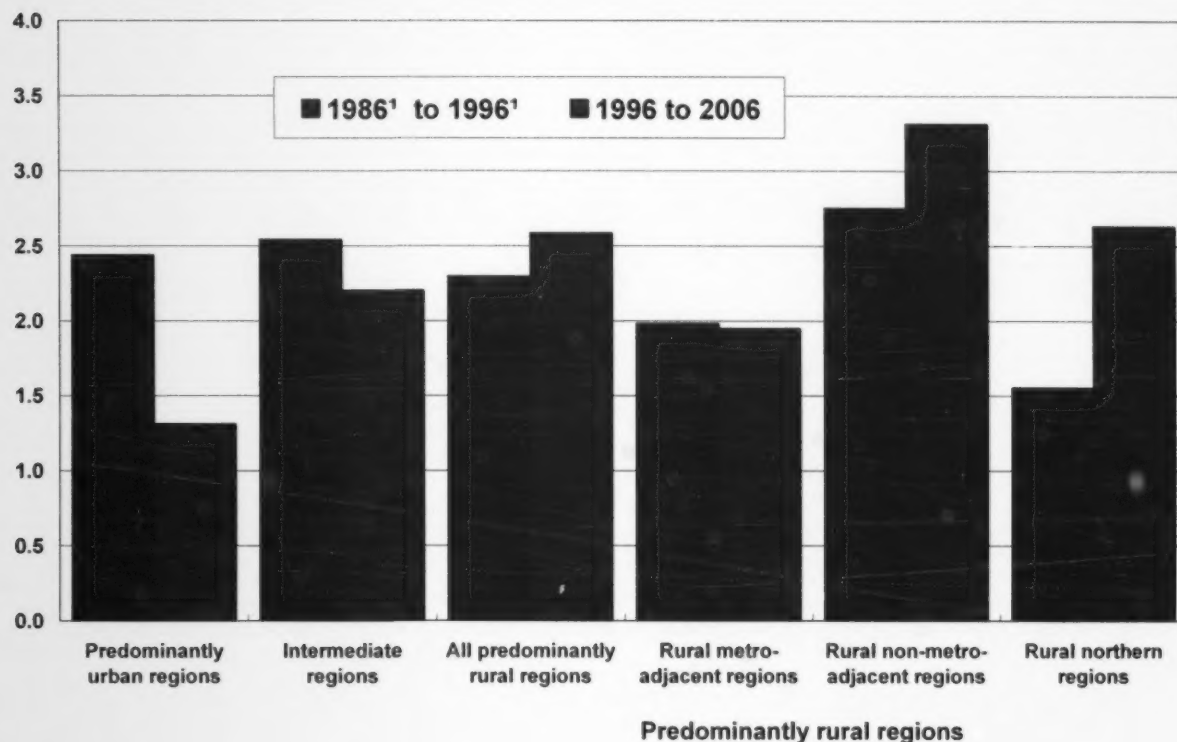
### Old age dependency ratios were also rising quickly in rural non-metro-adjacent regions

Rural non-metro-adjacent regions also witnessed the largest increase in the old age dependency ratio for both time periods (Figure 5). The old age dependency ratio rose at a slower rate in rural metro-adjacent communities. This may be because younger families are moving out to rural

regions adjacent to metro centres and are willing to commute back into the metro area for work and services. The old age dependency ratio rose at a slower rate during the second time period for Canada as a whole, but rose at a faster rate for predominantly rural regions. Although the old age dependency ratio is not calculated explicitly in Figure B.5 in Appendix B, it indicates that the senior share was increasing more slowly in the 1996 to 2006 period than in the 1986 to 1996.

**Figure 5 Rural non-metro-adjacent regions had the largest change in the old age dependency ratio from 1986 to 2006**

change in the old age dependency ratio (i.e. percentage point change)



1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).  
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

### Rural is aging more slowly than urban – the number of seniors is increasing more slowly in rural regions than in urban regions

When measuring “aging” in terms of the growth in the number of seniors, the growth rate was lower in predominantly rural regions than in predominantly urban and intermediate regions in both time periods. Between 1986 and 1996 the growth rate of seniors in rural non-metro-adjacent regions was only 24% compared to 34% in predominantly urban regions (Figure 6). The

growth rate across all predominantly rural regions during this time period was 26%. Rural northern regions were the only rural regions that did not follow the pattern of a slower rural growth rate. The growth rate of seniors in rural northern regions was 33%, similar to predominantly urban regions. Such a large rate of growth in the rural northern regions was largely due to a smaller senior population that meant even a small absolute increase resulted in a large rate of increase.

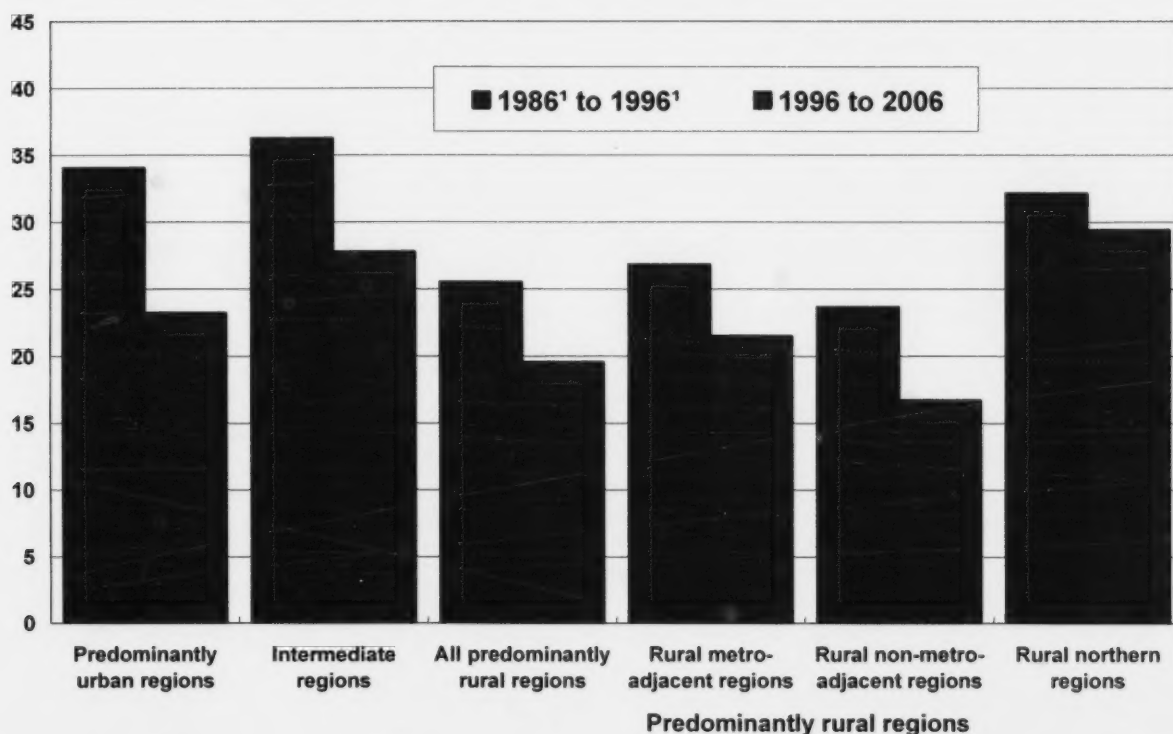


Between 1996 and 2006, the rate of growth in the number of seniors was slower for all regions in Canada, compared to the 1986 to 1996 period. The overall slower rate of growth is likely due to the lower number of births that occurred 60 years earlier during the Great Depression and World War II (see Appendix B). Rural northern regions

demonstrated the highest senior growth rates from 1996 to 2006, followed by intermediate regions and predominantly urban regions, while the remaining rural regions had the slowest growth rates. At 17%, the number of seniors in rural non-metro-adjacent regions was growing at the slowest rate between 1996 and 2006.

**Figure 6 The rate of growth of the senior population in predominantly rural regions is below the growth rate in urban and intermediate regions**

percent change in the population that is senior (65 years of age and over)



1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

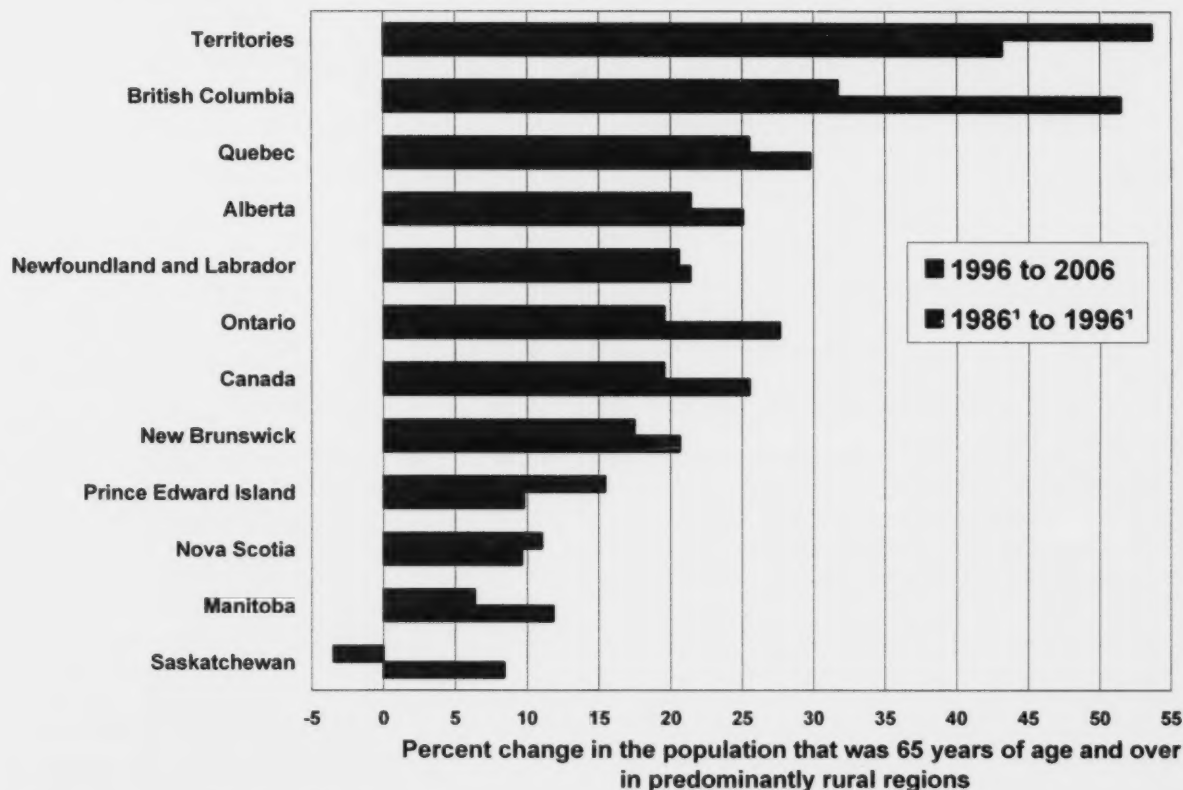
Again, the rate of aging in terms of the growth of the senior population differs in the predominantly rural population across the provinces and the Territories. At the Canada level, the number of seniors in predominantly rural regions grew by

20% from 1996 to 2006. The fastest growth was in the Territories – partly due to their starting with a small base, the rate of growth was over 50% in the decade from 1996 to 2006 (Figure 7).

Nevertheless, the senior population in the predominantly rural regions of British Columbia and Quebec increased by more than 25% in this period. In contrast, the number of seniors in the predominantly rural regions of Saskatchewan

actually declined in the 1996 to 2006 period, in part due to its population already being relatively older and in part due to the previous out-migration of the working age population who would have become seniors during this period.

**Figure 7 In the predominantly rural regions of British Columbia and Quebec, the number of seniors increased by more than 25% in each decade (1986 to 1996 and 1996 to 2006)**



1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).  
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

## Aging communities

A community that is aging may be increasing in terms of the share of seniors or the absolute number of seniors, but it is not necessarily increasing in both measures.

In the 1986 to 1996 period, approximately 70% of all communities increased in terms of their share of seniors (Table 3). In the 1996 to 2006 period this increased to approximately 80% of communities. During the 1996 to 2006 period, 97% of rural northern communities aged in this way, compared to only 75% of communities

within rural metro-adjacent regions. Some communities had an increasing share of seniors accompanied by a declining total population. In particular, this happened in many rural communities where the younger generations left their home towns in search of better opportunity

elsewhere, thus creating an increase in the share of seniors. When the share of seniors in a community is increasing, there might be greater pressure on the younger generations who remain to care for the senior population.

**Table 3 Communities in rural metro-adjacent regions are the less apt to be aging in terms of the likelihood of having a growth in the share of seniors**

Type of region in which the community is located	Change in share of community population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>				Change in share of community population that was senior, 1996 to 2006			
	Decrease	No change <sup>2</sup>	Increase	All communities	Decrease	No change <sup>2</sup>	Increase	All communities
	percent distribution of communities							
Predominantly urban regions	9	21	69	100	4	7	89	100
Intermediate regions	14	13	73	100	9	12	80	100
All predominantly rural regions	17	12	71	100	11	11	78	100
Rural metro-adjacent regions	20	14	66	100	11	14	75	100
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	17	10	73	100	12	10	79	100
Rural northern regions	0	23	77	100	0	3	97	100
All regions	17	12	71	100	10	11	79	100

1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. 'No change' refers to any community where the share of seniors increased or decreased by 0.5% or less.

Note: Communities are defined as 'census consolidated subdivisions'. Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Between 1986 and 1996, 73% of all communities experienced an increase in the absolute number of seniors while from 1996 to 2006, 67% of all communities aged in this way (Table 4). Communities in predominantly rural regions were less likely to be aging in the dimension of an increase in the number of seniors. Note that in the most recent period (1996 to 2006), 20% of the communities in Canada registered "no change" in the number of seniors (defined here as an increase or decrease of 10 seniors or less).

Between 1996 and 2006, only 58% of communities classified as being in a rural non-metro-adjacent region had an increase in the

number of seniors. In comparison, 93% of communities in predominantly urban regions aged in this way. Communities aging by an increase in the number of seniors are experiencing an increase in the demand for services for seniors. Some communities are increasing in the number of seniors but decreasing in terms of the share of seniors, meaning that although the number of seniors increased, the non-senior population grew at a faster rate.

The analysis shows that most communities experiencing an increase in the number of seniors are "aging in place" – specifically, the increase in the number of seniors was due to the aging of the resident population and not due to the in-

migration of seniors. While there was considerable variation among the different regions, across all communities in Canada, about one-half were "aging in place" in each decade. About one-sixth of all communities were aging, in

part, due to an in-migration of seniors. Communities in rural metro-adjacent regions were slightly more likely to be aging due to the in-migration of seniors.

**Table 4 Communities in rural non-metro-adjacent regions are the less apt to be aging in terms of the likelihood having a growth in the number of seniors**

	Change in number of seniors in the community, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>					
Type of region in which the community is located	Decrease	No change <sup>2</sup>	Increase			All communities
			Due largely to "aging in place" <sup>3</sup>	Due, in part, to the in-migration of seniors <sup>3</sup>	All communities with an increase	
	percent distribution of communities					
Predominantly urban regions	4	1	77	18	95	100
Intermediate regions	9	12	63	16	79	100
All predominantly rural regions	13	16	53	18	71	100
Rural metro-adjacent regions	12	13	55	20	75	100
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	15	18	50	17	67	100
Rural northern regions	2	16	79	3	82	100
All regions	12	14	56	17	73	100

	Change in number of seniors in the community, 1996 to 2006					
Type of region in which the community is located	Decrease	No change <sup>2</sup>	Increase			All communities
			Due largely to "aging in place" <sup>3</sup>	Due, in part, to the in-migration of seniors <sup>3</sup>	All communities with an increase	
	percent distribution of communities					
Predominantly urban regions	4	2	79	15	93	100
Intermediate regions	9	15	61	15	76	100
All predominantly rural regions	15	22	46	16	62	100
Rural metro-adjacent regions	12	22	48	19	67	100
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	18	23	43	15	58	100
Rural northern regions	0	10	89	2	90	100
All regions	13	20	51	16	67	100

1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. 'No change' refers to any community where the share of seniors increased or decreased by 0.5% or less.

3. For the 1986 to 1996 period, communities largely 'aging in place' are communities where the 1996 population in the age class 65 to 74 was less than or equal to the 1986 population 55 to 64 years of age. If the 1996 population, aged 65 to 74 was greater than the 1986 population aged 55 to 64, then part of the growth of seniors was due to in-migration of seniors. Thus, our classification suggests that the growth of seniors was 'largely due to aging in place' as we would classify some communities in this group if in-migrants had compensated for the deaths of the 1986 group aged 55 to 64. This calculation was repeated for the 1996 to 2006 period.

Note: Communities are defined as 'census consolidated subdivisions'. Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

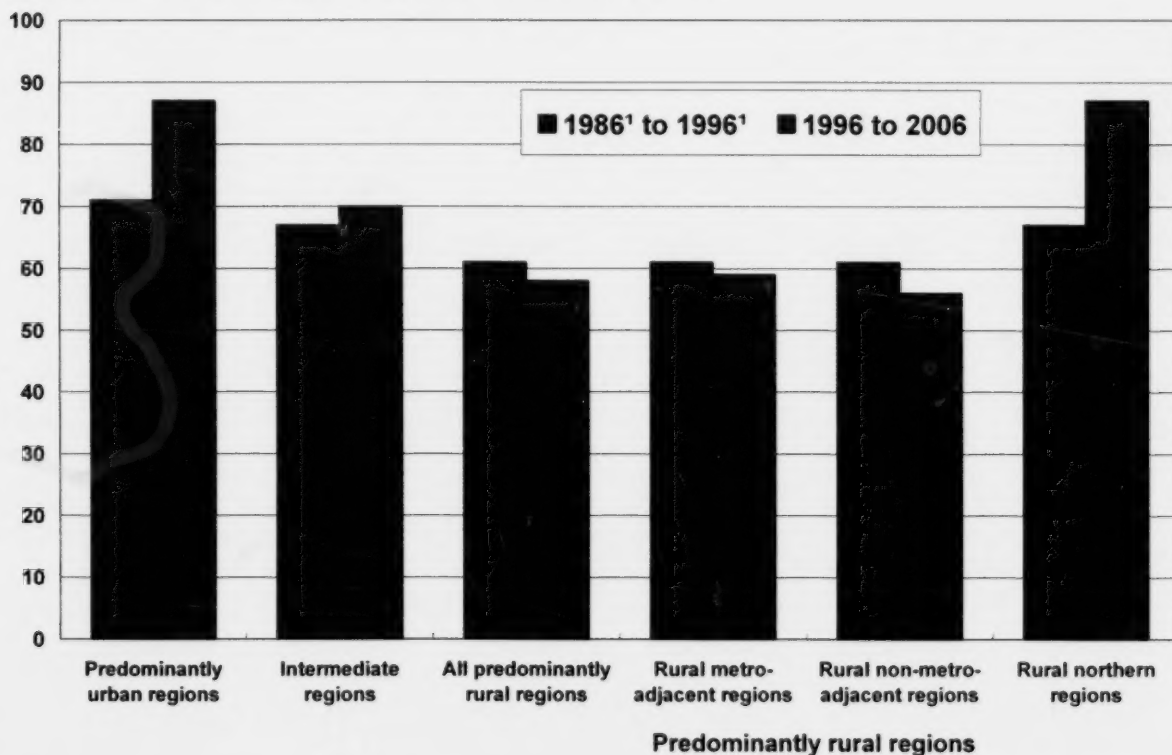
**Within each decade, a lower share of communities in predominantly rural regions were aging by both increasing shares and increasing number of seniors**

Approximately 60% of all communities were aging by both measures (i.e. higher shares and higher numbers of seniors) in each decade – from 1986 to 1996 and from 1996 to 2006 (Figure 8). Between 1996 and 2006, over 85% of communities in predominantly urban regions were aging by both measures compared with 56% of

communities in rural-non-metro-adjacent regions. During the same time period, 87% of communities in rural northern regions aged by both measures, largely because these communities are still relatively young and are progressively getting older unlike other rural communities that already have a large elderly population. The diminishing elderly population and the continual decline in population of many rural communities across Canada are two key factors explaining the lower share of communities aging by both measures in the other rural regions.

**Figure 8 Communities in rural northern regions and predominantly urban regions are the most likely to be aging due to both increasing senior shares and increasing senior numbers between 1986 to 2006**

percent of communities with an increased share and an increased number of seniors



1. Data refer to the non-institutional population.

Note: Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

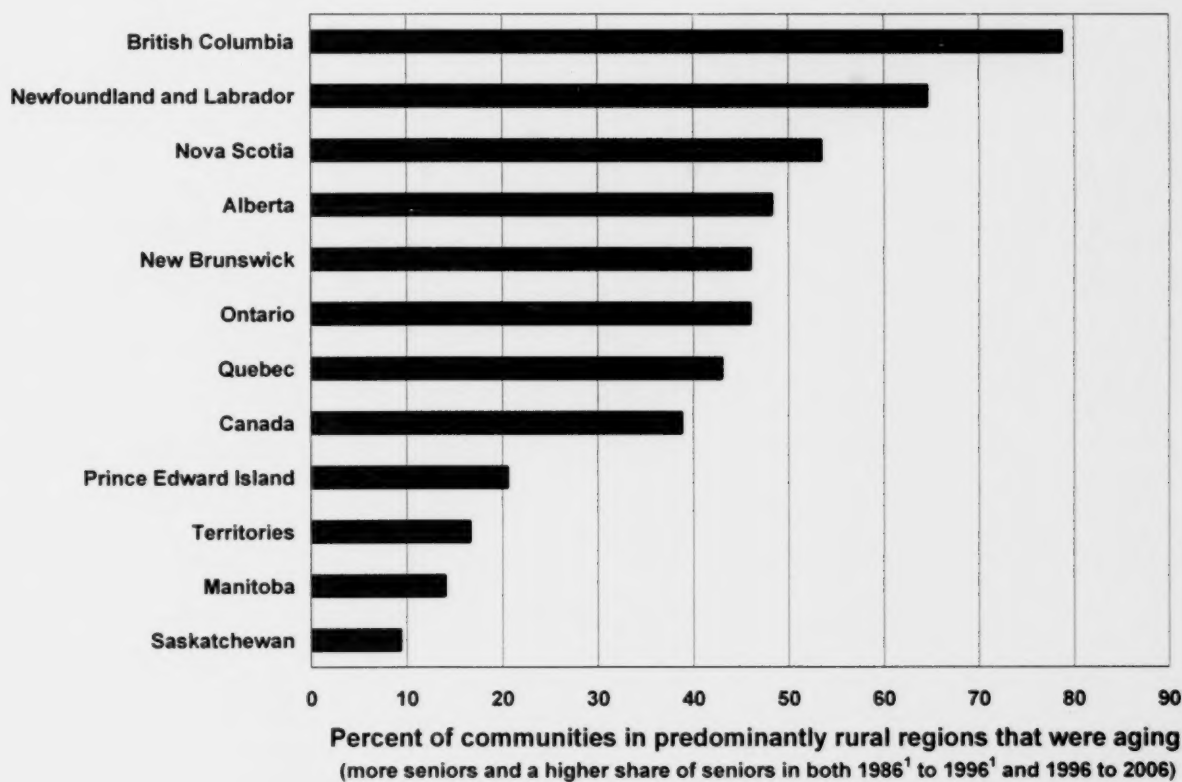
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Only 39% of the communities in predominantly rural regions aged in both ways from 1986 to 1996 and that also aged in both ways from 1996 to 2006 (Appendix Table A.16). However, there was considerable variation in the predominantly rural regions across the provinces and Territories.

In British Columbia, nearly 80% of the communities in predominantly rural regions were

aging in both the share and the number of seniors in both decades (Figure 9). At the other end of the scale, less than 10% of the communities in the predominantly rural regions of Saskatchewan were aging in both ways in both decades. As noted earlier, communities in Saskatchewan are relatively older and thus very few continued to age in two ways over these two time periods.

**Figure 9** In the predominantly rural regions of British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia, over one-half of the communities were aging in the 1986 to 2006 period



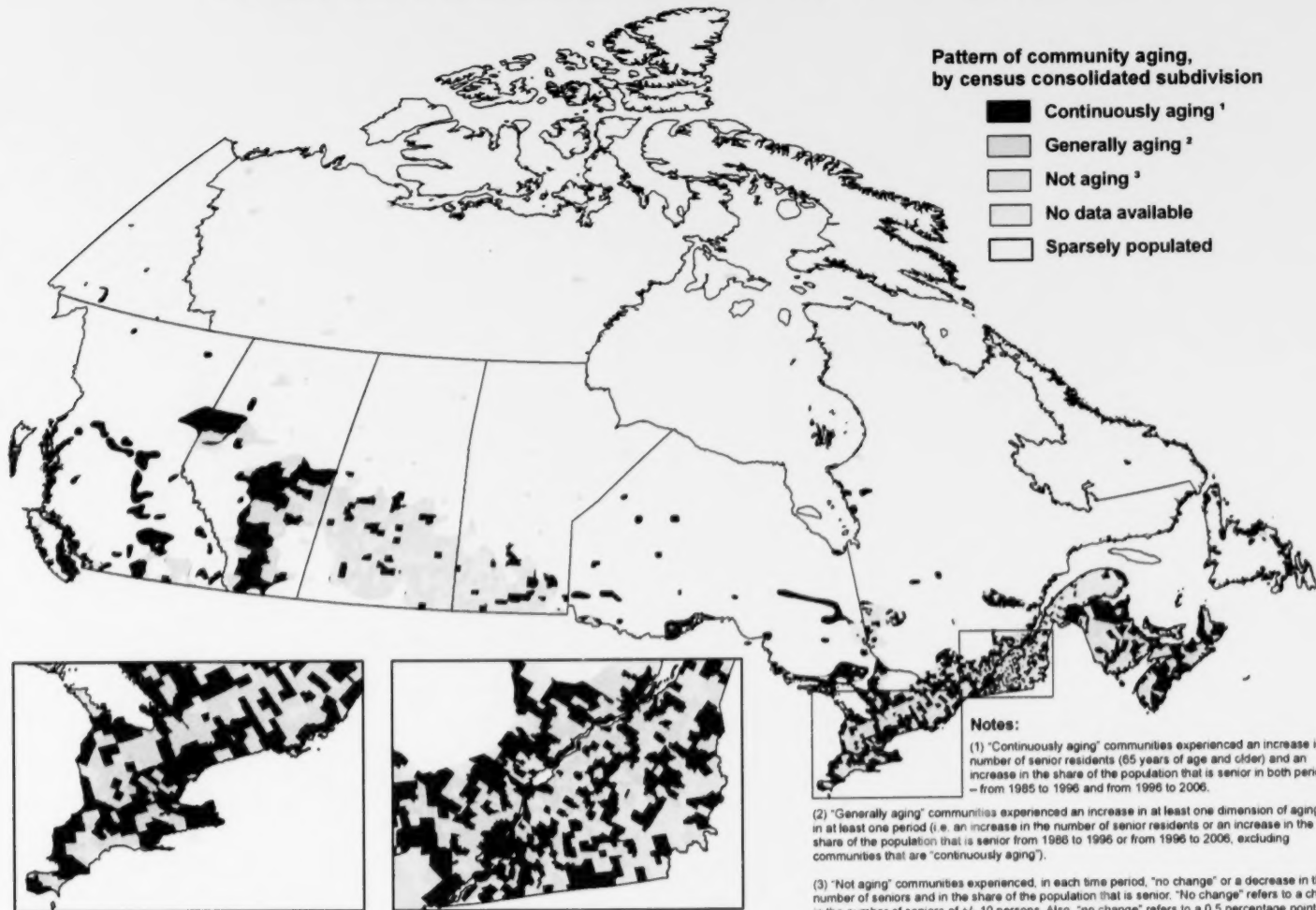
1. Data refer to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

Note: Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.



## Communities with aging populations, Canada, 1986-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 1986, 1996 and 2006.  
Map produced by the Remote Sensing and Geomatics Applications section (RSGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2007

The map shows the pattern of community aging across Canada. Communities in red indicate the communities that have been aging in both ways between 1986-1996 and 1996-2006 (that is, an increase in the share of seniors and an increase in the absolute number of seniors). This map clearly demonstrates that Saskatchewan is older in terms of higher shares, but declining in senior numbers. By contrast, much of Alberta is aging continuously; however, it is important to note that this province also has a younger population. Therefore, the continuous aging is likely due to younger seniors getting older compared to Saskatchewan which already has a relatively old population. However, a large area of northern Alberta is not aging. Evidently, this is mostly due to the high number of younger people migrating to this area to work in the oil industry.

The Okanagan-Similkameen region in British Columbia is yet another region which experienced continuous aging throughout the twenty-year period. Vancouver Island and parts of northern British Columbia also witnessed continuous aging in both periods.

Another key region that appears to be consistently aging is northern Ontario, including areas such as Timmins, Kapuskasing, Iroquois Falls and Thunder Bay. In eastern Canada, it is mostly the regions surrounding major cities that are continuously aging.

### **Characteristics of aging communities**

Over the 1986 to 2006 period, there were 1,040 "continuously aging" communities in Canada, 910 "generally aging" communities and 505 "not aging" communities (Table 5). At the Canada level, 42% of the communities were "continuously aging". Predominantly rural

regions had a lower share (39%) of communities that were "continuously aging."

For Canada as a whole, 71% of the national population in 2006 was residing in communities that were "continuously aging" over the previous 20 years. Within rural metro-adjacent regions, only 55% of the 2006 population was living in "continuously aging" communities.

Within each type of region, "continuously aging" communities have a larger population than "generally aging" communities which, in turn, have a larger population than "not aging" communities.

The share of the 2006 senior population living in "continuously aging" communities replicates the distribution of the total population – 72% of seniors and 71% of the total population are living in "continuously aging" communities.

Communities that were "not aging" were, in general, already older communities. In 2006, 15% of their population were seniors (compared to 13% for "generally aging" and 14% for "continuously aging" communities). Within each group of communities classified by their pattern of community aging, communities in rural non-metro-adjacent regions were older.

Communities that were "continuously aging" had larger incomes per capita and lower shares of income from transfers than "generally aging" communities which, in turn, had larger incomes per capita and lower shares of income from transfers compared to the "not aging" communities. However, the incidence of low income in communities showed no consistent relationship with type of region or pattern of community aging.

**Table 5 Number and characteristics of communities by community aging pattern, 1986 to 2006, Canada**

Type of region in which the community is located	Pattern of community aging <sup>1</sup>			
	Not aging	Generally aging	Continuously aging	All communities
	number of communities			
Predominantly urban regions	8	41	88	137
Intermediate regions	83	130	220	433
All predominantly rural regions	414	739	732	1,885
Rural metro-adjacent regions	163	291	283	737
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	246	427	414	1,087
Rural northern regions	5	21	35	61
All regions	505	910	1,040	2,455
	percent distribution of communities			
Predominantly urban regions	6	30	64	100
Intermediate regions	19	30	51	100
All predominantly rural regions	22	39	39	100
Rural metro-adjacent regions	22	39	38	100
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	23	39	38	100
Rural northern regions	8	34	57	100
All regions	21	37	42	100
	total population in 2006			
Predominantly urban regions	236,104	3,480,682	12,180,352	15,897,138
Intermediate regions	128,823	1,316,474	4,882,916	6,328,213
All predominantly rural regions	695,366	3,258,493	5,413,532	9,367,391
Rural metro-adjacent regions	285,700	1,902,281	2,643,565	4,831,546
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	374,888	1,140,870	2,391,758	3,907,516
Rural northern regions	34,778	215,342	378,209	628,329
All regions	1,060,293	8,055,649	22,476,800	31,592,742
	percent distribution of total population in 2006			
Predominantly urban regions	1	22	77	100
Intermediate regions	2	21	77	100
All predominantly rural regions	7	35	58	100
Rural metro-adjacent regions	6	39	55	100
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	10	29	61	100
Rural northern regions	6	34	60	100
All regions	3	25	71	100
	average population per community in 2006			
Predominantly urban regions	29,513	84,895	138,413	116,038
Intermediate regions	1,552	10,127	22,195	14,615
All predominantly rural regions	1,680	4,409	7,396	4,969
Rural metro-adjacent regions	1,753	6,537	9,341	6,556
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	1,524	2,672	5,777	3,595
Rural northern regions	6,956	10,254	10,806	10,300
All regions	2,100	8,852	21,612	12,869

See notes at the end of the Table.

**Table 5 Number and characteristics of communities by community aging pattern, 1986 to 2006, Canada (continued)**

Type of region in which the community is located	Pattern of community aging <sup>1</sup>			
	Not aging	Generally aging	Continuously aging	All communities
senior population (65 years of age and over) in 2006				
Predominantly urban regions	37,940	445,530	1,563,620	2,047,090
Intermediate regions	17,825	163,970	680,740	862,535
All predominantly rural regions	105,550	440,535	876,540	1,422,625
Rural metro-adjacent regions	42,815	257,740	432,310	732,865
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	59,875	174,370	403,215	637,460
Rural northern regions	2,860	8,425	41,015	52,300
All regions	161,315	1,050,035	3,120,900	4,332,250
percent distribution of senior population (65 years of age and over) in 2006				
Predominantly urban regions	2	22	76	100
Intermediate regions	2	19	79	100
All predominantly rural regions	7	31	62	100
Rural metro-adjacent regions	6	35	59	100
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	9	27	63	100
Rural northern regions	5	16	78	100
All regions	4	24	72	100
average number of seniors (65 years of age and over) per community in 2006				
Predominantly urban regions	4,743	10,867	17,768	14,942
Intermediate regions	215	1,261	3,094	1,992
All predominantly rural regions	255	596	1,197	755
Rural metro-adjacent regions	263	886	1,528	994
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	243	408	974	586
Rural northern regions	572	401	1,172	857
All regions	319	1,154	3,001	1,765
percent of total population that were seniors (65 years of age and over) in 2006				
Predominantly urban regions	16.1	12.8	12.8	12.9
Intermediate regions	13.8	12.5	13.9	13.6
All predominantly rural regions	15.2	13.5	16.2	15.2
Rural metro-adjacent regions	15.0	13.5	16.4	15.2
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	16.0	15.3	16.9	16.3
Rural northern regions	8.2	3.9	10.8	8.3
All regions	15.2	13.0	13.9	13.7

See notes at the end of the Table.

**Table 5 Number and characteristics of communities by community aging pattern, 1986 to 2006, Canada (continued)**

Type of region in which the community is located	Pattern of community aging <sup>1</sup>			
	Not aging	Generally aging	Continuously aging	All communities
	average income per capita in the community in 2000 <sup>2</sup>			
Predominantly urban regions	21,300	22,448	25,118	23,921
Intermediate regions	17,688	19,062	20,657	18,966
All predominantly rural regions	16,514	17,323	18,308	16,566
Rural metro-adjacent regions	17,102	18,360	19,127	17,826
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	16,226	15,887	17,459	15,179
Rural northern regions	14,975	16,256	18,119	15,916
All regions	16,817	17,435	19,258	17,086
	percent of community total income that was received as transfers in 2000 <sup>2</sup>			
Predominantly urban regions	9.7	7.8	7.1	7.4
Intermediate regions	13.6	12.2	10.9	11.8
All predominantly rural regions	15.7	14.6	14.5	14.8
Rural metro-adjacent regions	14.3	12.9	13.0	13.2
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	16.9	17.8	16.3	17.0
Rural northern regions	14.9	14.5	14.3	14.4
All regions	15.3	14.6	13.1	14.1
	percent of individuals living in households with income below the low income cut-off in 2000 <sup>2,3</sup>			
Predominantly urban regions	21.8	21.5	17.9	18.8
Intermediate regions	11.5	12.5	14.0	13.6
All predominantly rural regions	13.4	12.5	14.2	13.6
Rural metro-adjacent regions	12.8	11.1	13.6	12.6
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	13.8	14.6	15.0	14.7
Rural northern regions	14.5	15.0	13.5	13.9
All regions	15.1	16.5	16.2	16.2

1. 'Continuously aging' communities experienced an increase in the number of senior residents (65 years of age and older) and an increase in the share of the population that is senior in both periods – from 1986 to 1996 and from 1996 to 2006. 'Generally aging' communities experienced an increase in at least one way of measuring aging in at least one period (i.e. an increase in the number of senior residents or an increase in the share of the population that is senior from 1986 to 1996 or from 1996 to 2006, excluding communities that are 'continuously aging'). 'Not aging' communities experienced, in each time period, 'no change' or a decrease in the number of seniors and the share of the population that is senior. 'No change' refers to a change of the number of seniors of +/- 10 persons. Also, 'no change' refers to a 0.5 percentage point change or less in the senior share over a 10-year period.

2. Income data from the 2001 Census of Population refers to the 2000 calendar year.

3. The incidence of low incomes is not calculated for residents of the Territories nor for residents of Indian Reserves. The data for the rural northern regions reported here refer to the northern census divisions of the provinces.

Note: Communities are defined as 'census consolidated subdivisions'. Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

## Examples of rapidly-aging communities

To provide some examples of rapidly-aging communities, the measure of the “change in share of the population that is senior” was selected and communities were ranked according to the largest change in shares from 1986 to 2006.

Recall that in this bulletin census consolidated subdivisions (CCSs) are used to represent “communities” (See Box 1). CCSs are “consolidations” of census subdivisions (CSDs).

One example of a rapidly-aging community is the CCS called “Algoma, Unorganized, North Part” (Ontario). This CCS is a consolidation of the CSDs of Blind River, Elliot Lake, North Shore and Shedden and covers a large area in north-eastern Ontario. The 1996 designations have been used in order to study aging over time within constant boundaries.<sup>3</sup> This CCS is the most rapidly aging in Canada that has a population of 10,000 to 49,999 residents and which is located within an intermediate region. Nearly 21% of the population were seniors in 2006 (Table 6) and, in each of the time periods examined, the increase in the share of seniors was over 7 percentage points. Over the past four census years, this CCS has experienced continuous population decline. In 2001, 13% of the labour force aged 15 and over was unemployed and the average yearly income in 2000 for people aged 15 and over was \$5,000 below the Canadian average at approximately \$23,000.

Among CCSs with a population of 50,000 or more located in a predominantly urban region, Charlesbourg (Quebec) had the most rapidly aging population in Canada. It is located within the census division of the Communauté-Urbaine-de-Québec and is eight kilometres north of Quebec City. In 2006, 17% of the population was seniors. The share of seniors increased by 4

percentage points between 1986 and 1996 and by a further 6 percentage points from 1996 to 2006. Over the past twenty years, the population of this CCS has remained relatively stable. In 2001, 7% of the labour force aged 15 and over was unemployed while the average income in 2000 was \$25,500 which was lower than the Canadian average but similar to that of the province of Quebec. Sainte-Foy, which is located in the same census division as Charlesbourg, is the second most rapidly aging CCS in a predominantly urban region in Canada.

Another CCS that ranked high in the classification of rapidly aging communities was “Thompson-Nicola, Subdivision D” (British Columbia). This CCS includes the CSDs of Kamloops and Thompson-Nicola and is located about 355 kilometres northeast of Vancouver. This CCS was classified as the most rapidly aging CCS with a population between 10,000 and 49,999 in a rural-metro-adjacent region. Over 20% of the population was 65 years and over in 2006 and the share of seniors increased by more than 5 percentage points in each time period analysed in this bulletin. The overall population of this CCS has increased continuously over the past three census years (1996, 2001 and 2006). The average annual income was just over \$26,000 which was just under the Canadian average. In 2001, the unemployment rate was approximately 10%. Another CCS, namely “Thompson-Nicola, Subdivision B” (which includes the CSDs of Lytton, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Clinton and Logan Lake) is located in the same census division and is also classified as a rapidly aging community.

The CCS that is aging the most rapidly in a rural non-metro-adjacent region in the 10,000 to 49,999 population group is Thetford-Partie-Sud (Quebec) which is situated in the census division of L’Amiante. Thetford Mines is located within this CCS, 107 kilometres south of Quebec City. As mentioned earlier, in 2006, 14% of Canadians were 65 years of age and older, but in the CCS of

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3. In order to analyze the population over time, data were tabulated for constant boundaries. In this bulletin, data are tabulated for 1996 boundaries.



Thetford-Party-Sud, 23% of the population was senior. The share of seniors also increased rapidly with an increase of over 5 percentage points in each of the time periods. Since 1996, the population of this region has been steadily declining. In 2001, the unemployment rate was fairly low at just 8%. However, the average income in this region was also low (\$21,787 in 2000).

Among CCSs with a population of 1,000 to 9,999 in rural northern regions, Girardville (Quebec) was the most rapidly aging. Girardville is located about 300 kilometres north of Saguenay.

Although this CCS was aging rapidly, the share of seniors was relatively low compared to the other rapidly aging communities examined above. In 2006, 14% of the population were seniors, only slightly above the Canadian average. This CCS has experienced continuous population decline over the past 15 years. It has a very high unemployment rate (30% in 2001) and a low average income (\$19,162 in 2000).

The five community profiles mentioned above demonstrate that there are communities that are aging rapidly all across Canada, in each type of region and in all different sizes of communities.

Table 6 Rapidly aging communities, Canada, 1986 to 2006

Name and location of community				percentage point change in share of seniors in the total population		number of seniors in 2006	percent of 2006 population that is senior
Population in 1996	Name of community <sup>1</sup>	Census division	Province	1986 <sup>2</sup> to 1996 <sup>2</sup>	1996 to 2006		
Predominantly urban regions							
1,000 to 9,999	Musquash	Saint John County	N.B.	4.7	3.1	170	13.8
	Saint Martins	Saint John County	N.B.	2.6	3.4	230	14.5
	Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu	La Vallée-du-Richelieu	Que.	2.4	3.6	265	16.6
10,000 to 49,999	Glanbrook	Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Municipality	Ont.	3.8	6.5	2,780	18.2
	Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville	La Vallée-du-Richelieu	Que.	3.6	6.0	3,375	13.8
	Boucherville	Lajemmerais	Que.	3.1	6.1	5,785	14.8
50,000 and over	Charlesbourg	Communauté-Urbaine-de-Québec	Que.	4.1	6.1	12,400	17.1
	Sainte-Foy	Communauté-Urbaine-de-Québec	Que.	4.5	4.4	20,460	17.3
	Laval	Laval	Que.	4.1	3.1	52,785	14.3
Intermediate regions							
250 to 999	Barrie	Frontenac County	Ont.	16.7	5.2	210	28.4
	Jocelyn	Algoma District	Ont.	7.4	11.4	70	25.0
	Saint-Marcelin	Rimouski-Neigette	Que.	14.5	3.0	50	14.1
1,000 to 9,999	Saint-Mathieu	Le Centre-de-la-Mauricie	Que.	7.9	6.3	255	18.5
	St. Joseph	Algoma District	Ont.	3.5	8.7	275	24.4
	West Garafraxa	Wellington County	Ont.	6.4	5.6	950	18.7
10,000 to 49,999	Algoma, Unorganized, North Part	Algoma District	Ont.	7.2	8.7	6,300	20.9
	Grand-Mère	Le Centre-de-la-Mauricie	Que.	5.4	4.0	2,825	23.0
	Sorel	Le Bas-Richelieu	Que.	4.2	5.0	6,970	19.5
50,000 and over	Laterrière	Le Fjord-du-Saguenay	Que.	3.2	5.2	10,280	16.1
	Sault Ste. Marie	Algoma District	Ont.	4.0	4.3	14,025	18.3
	Jonquière	Le Fjord-du-Saguenay	Que.	3.9	3.9	8,550	16.0
Rural metro-adjacent regions							
250 to 999	Stukely	Memphrémagog	Que.	12.5	7.1	180	22.8
	Saint-Médard	Les Basques	Que.	6.9	12.3	55	22.0
	Maple Bush No. 224	Division No. 7 (includes Moose Jaw)	Sask.	7.9	10.0	115	31.5
1,000 to 9,999	Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard	Les Pays-d'en-Haut	Que.	10.7	1.5	650	18.3
	North Marysburgh	Prince Edward County	Ont.	5.8	6.5	405	27.5
	Casimir, Jennings and Appleby	Sudbury District	Ont.	2.6	8.9	215	19.1
10,000 to 49,999	Thompson-Nicola, Subdivision D	Thompson-Nicola Regional District	B.C.	5.6	7.7	2,015	20.5
	Alma	Lac-Saint-Jean-Est	Que.	3.1	5.8	4,290	16.0
	West Hawkesbury	Prescott & Russell United Counties	Ont.	3.5	4.2	3,220	19.9
50,000 and over	Thompson-Nicola, Subdivision B	Thompson-Nicola Regional District	B.C.	2.5	3.6	12,375	14.0
	Cape Breton	Cape Breton County	N.S.	1.8	3.4	18,790	17.7
	Nipissing, Unorganized, North Part	Nipissing District	Ont.	2.0	3.1	9,755	16.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 6 Rapidly aging communities, Canada, 1986 to 2006 (continued)

Population in 1996	Name and location of community			percentage point change in share of seniors in the total population		number of seniors in 2006	percent of 2006 population that is senior
	Name of community <sup>1</sup>	Census division	Province	1986 <sup>2</sup> to	1996 <sup>2</sup> to		
				1996 <sup>2</sup>	2006		
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions							
250 to 999	Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes	Madawaska County	N.B.	22.0	4.8	55	19.3
	Saint-Godefroi	Bonaventure	Que.	15.2	8.8	105	28.4
	Fillmore No. 96	Division No. 2 (includes Weyburn)	Sask.	15.5	8.3	200	36.4
1,000 to 9,999	Mount Waddington, Subdivision A	Mount Waddington Regional District	B.C.	11.0	5.3	315	14.0
	Division No. 4, Subdivision A	Division No. 4 (includes Stephenville)	N.L.	3.5	10.5	410	21.8
	Wawken No. 93	Division No. 1 (includes Estevan)	Sask.	10.1	3.8	440	29.0
10,000 to 49,999	Thetford-Partie-Sud	L'Amiante	Que.	5.0	6.3	4,455	23.4
	La Tuque	Le Haut-Saint-Maurice	Que.	4.3	5.2	2,055	19.4
	Shipton	Asbestos	Que.	7.0	2.1	2,235	22.2
50,000 and over	Comox-Strathcona, Subdivision C	Comox-Strathcona Regional District	B.C.	1.8	5.0	10,800	18.2
	North Okanagan, Subdivision B	North Okanagan Regional District	B.C.	2.4	3.0	11,870	19.5
	Okanagan-Similkameen, Subdivision A	Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District	B.C.	2.1	1.6	13,535	25.0
Rural northern regions							
250 to 999	Lac-Jérôme	Minganie - Basse-Côte-Nord	Que.	9.6	8.2	65	21.3
	Longue-Pointe	Minganie - Basse-Côte-Nord	Que.	6.6	5.5	90	18.6
	Rivière-au-Tonnerre	Minganie - Basse-Côte-Nord	Que.	5.9	5.0	85	21.8
1,000 to 9,999	Girardville	Maria-Chapdelaine	Que.	3.9	6.9	170	14.3
	Iroquois Falls	Cochrane District	Ont.	4.2	5.8	910	19.2
	Normandin	Maria-Chapdelaine	Que.	3.2	6.2	550	17.1
10,000 to 49,999	Chute-des-Passes	Maria-Chapdelaine	Que.	2.7	4.8	2,325	15.8
	Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part	Cochrane District	Ont.	2.9	3.8	4,480	13.9

1. The name of the community is the name of the CCS (census consolidated subdivision) in 1996. This may not resonate with the "community" from the point of view of the local residents because a CCS (census consolidated subdivision) typically contains 2 or more census subdivisions (incorporated towns and municipalities).

2. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C). Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: To determine the top three rapidly-aging communities in each region per size of community, the following analysis was undertaken. First, communities with senior shares below the Canadian average (13.7) in 2006 were removed from the analysis. Then, all communities with declining senior shares in either one or both periods were also removed. Following this step, we added the percentage point change in senior shares of 1986 to 1996 and 1996 to 2006 and used this value to determine which communities were above average senior shares and were aging the most rapidly between 1986 and 2006.

Communities are defined as 'census consolidated subdivisions'. Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

## Conclusion

As the population of Canada continues to age, we need to pay attention to how it will affect our rural communities. As observed, predominantly rural regions had higher shares of seniors on average than predominantly urban regions. On average, rural regions also had the highest child dependency ratio and the highest old age dependency ratio in the country. The top quintile communities with the highest share of seniors and the highest old age dependency ratios were also located in rural regions. All of these indicators show that rural regions were, on average, older than urban regions.

When determining what changes need to be made to a community that is aging, policymakers need to examine alternative ways of measuring aging. A community that is aging in terms of the share of seniors may call for a different policy approach compared to a community that is aging in terms of the number of seniors. Rural was aging faster than urban in terms of the share of seniors but slower in terms of absolute numbers of seniors. Old age dependency ratios were also rising much faster in

predominantly rural regions than in predominantly urban regions. These trends are intensified by the out-migration of rural youth. In addition, aging baby boomers will further accelerate rural aging, as some age in place and as others move to the countryside.

Nearly two-thirds of communities in predominantly urban regions were aging in both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both decades while only 39% of rural communities were doing the same. Although the incidence was much lower in rural regions, a significant number of communities were aging by both measures in both in rural and urban regions. Importantly, well over one-half of Canada's seniors in 2006 were living in communities that were continuously aging in the previous 20-year period.

While seniors can be great assets to a rural community by providing hours of volunteer help and extensive local historical knowledge, there are also many challenges associated with an aging community that may make some rural communities vulnerable in the future.



### Another Statistics Canada innovation...

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Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=16-002-X>.

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# Appendix A — Data tables

## Table A.1 Population by age class, by type of region, Canada, 1986 to 2006

Age class	Predominantly urban regions				Intermediate regions				All predominantly rural regions				All regions			
	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006
	Population															
Under 15	2,340,075	2,734,535	2,735,485	2,763,630	1,092,825	1,183,795	1,184,415	1,122,670	1,955,000	1,980,885	1,981,450	1,693,225	5,387,900	5,899,215	5,901,350	5,579,525
15 to 64	8,487,910	9,653,685	9,682,205	11,086,155	3,311,670	3,811,410	3,824,405	4,345,335	5,339,270	5,884,020	5,911,155	6,265,435	17,138,850	19,349,115	19,417,765	21,696,925
Under 65 (subtotal)	10,827,985	12,388,220	12,417,690	13,849,785	4,404,495	4,995,205	5,008,820	5,468,005	7,294,270	7,864,905	7,892,605	7,958,660	22,526,750	25,248,330	25,319,115	27,276,450
65 to 74	746,035	959,925	976,900	1,066,675	299,685	391,045	399,220	456,925	572,835	673,205	685,840	764,575	1,618,555	2,024,175	2,061,960	2,288,175
75 and over	411,405	591,835	684,010	980,415	157,310	231,770	275,990	405,920	307,485	431,945	505,940	660,550	876,200	1,255,550	1,465,940	2,046,885
All seniors (subtotal)	1,157,440	1,551,760	1,660,910	2,047,090	456,995	622,815	675,210	862,845	880,320	1,105,150	1,191,780	1,425,125	2,494,755	3,279,725	3,527,900	4,335,060
All age classes	11,985,370	13,939,975	14,078,550	15,897,138	4,861,610	5,618,025	5,683,975	6,330,884	8,174,590	8,970,055	9,084,385	9,383,785	25,022,025	28,528,125	28,846,761	31,612,897
	Population by type of predominantly rural region															
Age class	Rural metro-adjacent regions				Rural non-metro-adjacent regions				Rural northern regions							
	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006				
	Population															
Under 15	894,660	966,400	966,690	868,335	887,530	841,235	841,400	677,500	172,810	173,250	173,360	147,390				
15 to 64	2,542,095	2,892,710	2,909,525	3,232,110	2,411,470	2,569,495	2,579,175	2,604,410	385,705	421,815	422,455	428,915				
Under 65 (subtotal)	3,436,755	3,859,110	3,876,215	4,100,445	3,299,000	3,410,730	3,420,575	3,281,910	558,515	595,065	595,815	576,305				
65 to 74	285,085	339,165	345,920	390,950	268,180	308,740	314,240	342,225	19,570	25,300	25,680	31,400				
75 and over	153,895	217,670	257,335	342,125	144,430	201,605	233,855	297,495	9,160	12,670	14,750	20,930				
All seniors (subtotal)	438,980	556,835	603,255	733,075	412,610	510,345	548,095	639,720	28,730	37,970	40,430	52,330				
All age classes	3,875,870	4,415,890	4,479,305	4,833,567	3,711,865	3,921,085	3,968,610	3,922,699	587,310	633,130	636,205	628,609				

1. Indicates that the data refer to the non-institutional population. Otherwise, the 1996 and 2006 data refer to the total population (institutional plus non-institutional).

Note: Population by age group is derived from community level data which excludes communities with less than 100 persons. As a result, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Due to rounding, numbers may not sum to totals.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.



Table A.2 Percent change in population by age class, by type of region, Canada, 1986 to 2006

Age class	Predominantly rural regions													
	Predominantly urban regions		Intermediate regions		All predominantly rural regions		Rural metro-adjacent regions		Rural non-metro-adjacent regions		Rural northern regions		All regions	
	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006
	percent change in population within each age class													
Under 15	17	1	8	-5	1	-15	8	-10	-5	-19	0	-15	9	-5
15 to 64	14	15	15	14	10	6	14	11	7	1	9	2	13	12
Under 65 (subtotal)	14	12	13	9	8	1	12	6	3	-4	7	-3	12	8
65 to 74	29	9	30	14	18	11	19	13	15	9	29	22	25	11
75 and over	44	43	47	47	40	31	41	33	40	27	38	42	43	40
All seniors (subtotal)	34	23	36	28	26	20	27	22	24	17	32	29	31	23
All age classes	16	13	16	11	10	3	14	8	6	-1	8	-1	14	10

1. Indicates that the data refer to the non-institutional population. Otherwise, the 1996 and 2006 data refer to the total population (institutional plus non-institutional (Appendix C)).

Note: Population by age group is derived from community level data which excludes communities with less than 100 persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Table A.3 Percent distribution of population by age class, by type of region, Canada, 1986 to 2006

Age class	Predominantly rural regions																							
	Predominantly urban regions				Intermediate regions				All predominantly rural regions				Rural metro-adjacent regions				Rural non-metro-adjacent regions				Rural northern regions			
	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006	1986 <sup>1</sup>	1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996	2006
	percent distribution																							
Under 15	20	20	19	17	22	21	21	18	24	22	22	18	23	22	22	18	24	21	21	17	29	27	27	23
15 to 64	71	69	69	70	68	68	67	69	65	66	65	67	66	66	65	67	65	66	65	66	66	67	66	68
Under 65 (subtotal)	90	89	88	87	91	89	88	86	89	88	87	85	89	87	87	85	89	87	86	84	95	94	94	92
65 to 74	6	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	8	8	8	7	8	8	9	3	4	4	5
75 and over	3	4	5	6	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	8	2	2	2	3
All seniors (subtotal)	10	11	12	13	9	11	12	14	11	12	13	15	11	13	13	15	11	13	14	16	5	6	6	8
All age classes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Child dependency ratio <sup>2</sup>	28	28	28	25	33	31	31	26	37	34	34	27	35	33	33	27	37	33	33	26	45	41	41	34
Old age dependency ratio <sup>3</sup>	14	16	17	18	14	16	18	20	16	19	20	23	17	19	21	23	17	20	21	25	7	9	10	12

1. Indicates that the data refer to the non-institutional population. Otherwise, the 1996 and 2006 data refer to the total population (institutional plus non-institutional (Appendix C)).

2. The child dependency ratio is defined as the number of children under 15 years of age as a percent of the population 15 to 64 years of age.

3. The old age dependency ratio is defined as the number of individuals 65 years of age and over as a percent of the population 15 to 64 years of age.

Note: Population by age group is derived from community level data which excludes communities with less than 100 persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

**Table A.4 Percentage point change in the percent distribution of population by age class, by type of region, Canada, 1986 to 2006**

Age class	Predominantly rural regions													
	Predominantly urban regions		Intermediate regions		All predominantly rural regions		Rural metro-adjacent regions		Rural non-metro-adjacent regions		Rural northern regions		All regions	
	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006	1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1996 to 2006
change in population share (i.e. change in percentage point share of each age group as a percent of the total population)														
Under 15	0.1	-2.0	-1.4	-3.1	-1.8	-3.8	-1.2	-3.6	-2.5	-3.9	-2.1	-3.8	-0.9	-2.8
15 to 64	-1.6	1.0	-0.3	1.4	0.3	1.7	-0.1	1.9	0.6	1.4	1.0	1.8	-0.7	1.3
Under 65 (subtotal)	-1.5	-1.1	-1.7	-1.8	-1.6	-2.1	-1.3	-1.7	-1.9	-2.5	-1.1	-2.0	-1.5	-1.5
65 to 74	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.1
75 and over	0.8	1.3	0.9	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.7	0.4	1.0	0.9	1.4
All seniors (subtotal)	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.5	1.1	2.0	1.5	1.5
All age classes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Child dependency ratio <sup>2</sup>	0.8	-3.3	-1.9	-5.1	-2.9	-6.5	-1.8	-6.4	-4.1	-6.6	-3.7	-6.7	-0.9	-4.7
Old age dependency ratio <sup>3</sup>	2.4	1.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.8	3.3	1.6	2.6	2.4	1.8

1. Indicates that the data refer to the non-institutional population. Otherwise, the 1996 and 2006 data refer to the total population (institutional plus non-institutional (Appendix C)).

2. The child dependency ratio is defined as the number of children under 15 years of age as a percent of the population 15 to 64 years of age.

3. The old age dependency ratio is defined as the number of individuals 65 years of age and over as a percent of the population 15 to 64 years of age.

Note: Population by age group is derived from community level data which excludes communities with less than 100 persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Table A.5 Selected characteristics of aging, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	...	248,415	257,010	...	212,570	44,440	505,425
As percent of total	...	49	51	...	42	9	100
Number of seniors in 2006	...	31,565	38,600	...	34,050	4,550	70,165
As percent of total	...	...	55	...	49	6	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	...	13	15	...	16	10	14
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	14.0	21.4	...	20.2	31.9	17.9
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	...	14.8	20.6	...	19.3	31.5	17.9
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	1.0	2.4	...	2.5	1.8	1.8
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	...	1.8	4.4	...	4.5	3.6	3.1
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	248,415	256,725	...	212,285	44,440	505,140
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	31,565	38,565	...	34,015	4,550	70,130
Number of communities	...	19	65	...	54	11	84
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	9	42	...	32	10	51
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	...	47	65	...	59	91	61
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	215,380	205,865	...	163,240	42,625	421,225
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	87	80	...	77	96	83
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	26,105	30,500	...	26,225	4,275	56,605
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	83	79	...	77	94	81

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Table A.6 Selected characteristics of aging, Prince Edward Island, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	Predominantly rural regions				All regions
			All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	...	...	135,860	72,720	63,140	...	135,860
As percent of total	...	...	100	54	46	...	100
Number of seniors in 2006	...	...	20,140	10,465	9,675	...	20,140
As percent of total	...	...	100	52	48	...	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	...	...	15	14	15	...	15
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	...	9.8	13.1	6.6	...	9.8
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	...	...	15.4	17.1	13.8	...	15.4
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	...	0.4	0.2	0.6	...	0.4
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	...	...	1.9	1.7	2.1	...	1.9
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	...	135,860	72,720	63,140	...	135,860
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	...	20,140	10,465	9,675	...	20,140
Number of communities	...	...	68	25	43	...	68
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	14	7	7	...	14
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	...	...	21	28	16	...	21
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	47,820	21,370	26,450	...	47,820
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	35	29	42	...	35
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	6,860	2,525	4,335	...	6,860
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	34	24	45	...	34

1 Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2 Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

**Table A.7 Selected characteristics of aging, Nova Scotia, 1986 to 2006**

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	...	372,855	540,605	261,620	278,985	...	913,460
As percent of total	...	41	59	29	31	...	100
Number of seniors in 2006	...	44,970	93,180	44,805	48,375	...	138,150
As percent of total	...	33	67	32	35	...	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	...	12	17	17	17	...	15
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	29.6	9.7	11.3	8.2	...	14.9
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	...	27.7	11.0	14.0	8.5	...	16.0
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	...	1.2
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	...	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.1	...	2.0
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	372,855	540,605	261,620	278,985	...	913,460
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	44,970	93,180	44,805	48,375	...	138,150
Number of communities	...	8	43	13	30	...	51
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	5	23	7	16	...	28
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	...	63	53	54	53	...	55
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	230,720	402,330	222,465	179,865	...	633,050
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	62	74	85	64	...	69
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	24,200	70,150	39,295	30,855	...	94,350
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	54	75	88	64	...	68

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.



Table A.8 Selected characteristics of aging, New Brunswick, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	74,630	90,875	564,415	310,040	254,375	...	729,920
As percent of total	10	12	77	42	35	...	100
Number of seniors in 2006	11,815	12,205	83,745	43,455	40,290	...	107,765
As percent of total	11	11	78	40	37	...	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	16	13	15	14	16	...	15
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	8.0	22.3	20.7	21.3	20.0	...	19.1
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	-0.5	21.6	17.5	18.7	16.3	...	15.7
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.2	2.0	...	1.5
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	0.9	1.7	2.4	1.7	3.3	...	2.1
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	74,630	90,575	564,415	310,040	254,375	...	729,620
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	11,815	12,135	83,745	43,455	40,290	...	107,695
Number of communities	4	14	128	59	69	...	146
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	2	6	59	24	35	...	67
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	50	43	46	41	51	...	46
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	2,820	64,705	348,720	151,775	196,945	...	416,245
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	4	71	62	49	77	...	57
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	400	9,075	52,460	20,830	31,630	...	61,935
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	3	75	63	48	79	...	58

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

**Table A.9 Selected characteristics of aging, Quebec, 1986 to 2006**

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	4,168,480	1,616,800	1,759,935	788,365	894,180	77,390	7,545,215
As percent of total	55	21	23	10	12	1	100
Number of seniors in 2006	577,370	234,605	268,060	114,795	145,760	7,505	1,080,035
As percent of total	53	22	25	11	13	1	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	14	15	15	15	16	10	14
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	32.0	35.2	29.8	27.3	31.2	43.3	32.1
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	23.8	30.6	25.5	25.2	25.2	38.7	25.6
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1.8	1.9	2.2	1.5	2.7	1.8	1.9
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.1	3.5	2.9	2.3
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	4,168,480	1,616,165	1,747,435	787,570	882,650	77,215	7,532,080
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	577,370	234,515	266,080	114,680	143,925	7,475	1,077,965
Number of communities	55	214	757	280	455	22	1,026
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	34	103	326	118	199	9	463
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	62	48	43	42	44	41	45
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	3,903,930	1,214,535	1,147,460	456,725	632,480	58,255	6,265,925
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	94	75	66	58	72	75	83
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	555,805	196,040	185,000	73,100	105,720	6,180	936,845
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	96	84	70	64	73	83	87

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Table A.10 Selected characteristics of aging, Ontario, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	6,319,020	3,537,060	2,303,895	1,659,990	496,975	146,930	12,159,975
As percent of total	52	29	19	14	4	1	100
Number of seniors in 2006	802,515	477,315	369,300	258,815	92,065	18,420	1,649,130
As percent of total	49	29	22	16	6	1	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	13	13	16	16	19	13	14
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	36.1	42.5	27.6	28.3	26.2	26.6	35.7
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	22.1	29.8	19.6	21.5	21.5	15.5	23.6
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1.6	1.7	1.2	0.9	1.8	1.5	1.5
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.5	2.2	2.4	1.2
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	6,319,020	3,535,580	2,302,210	1,659,990	495,290	146,930	12,156,810
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	802,515	477,195	369,030	258,815	91,795	18,420	1,648,740
Number of communities	49	138	315	173	137	5	502
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	31	90	145	75	65	5	266
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	63	65	46	43	47	100	53
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	4,467,700	2,747,970	1,386,030	891,885	347,215	146,930	8,601,700
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	71	78	60	54	70	100	71
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	556,365	372,125	237,315	153,070	65,825	18,420	1,165,805
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	69	78	64	59	72	100	71

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

**Table A.11 Selected characteristics of aging, Manitoba, 1986 to 2006**

	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	Predominantly rural regions				All regions
			All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	636,175	...	512,100	233,970	209,850	68,280	1,148,275
As percent of total	55	...	45	20	18	6	100
Number of seniors in 2006	90,250	...	71,660	31,075	36,715	3,870	161,910
As percent of total	...	...	44	19	23	2	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	14	...	14	13	17	6	14
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	17.2	...	11.8	18.7	8.0	5.1	14.8
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	6.4	...	6.4	16.0	-1.9	23.4	6.4
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1.4	...	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.0	1.1
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	0.5	...	0.3	0.6	-0.1	1.1	0.4
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	636,175	...	511,780	233,970	209,530	68,280	1,147,955
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	90,250	...	71,605	31,075	36,660	3,870	161,855
Number of communities	2	...	121	35	83	3	123
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	2	...	17	9	8	0	19
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	100	...	14	26	10	0	15
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	636,175	...	88,255	65,405	22,850	0	724,430
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	100	...	17	28	11	0	63
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	90,250	...	15,465	10,415	5,050	0	105,715
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	100	...	22	34	14	0	65

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Table A.12 Selected characteristics of aging, Saskatchewan, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	...	464,855	503,280	224,625	244,735	33,920	968,135
As percent of total	...	48	52	23	25	4	100
Number of seniors in 2006	...	62,185	87,275	38,805	46,705	1,765	149,460
As percent of total	...	42	58	26	31	1	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	...	13	17	17	19	5	15
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	25.4	8.4	11.4	5.9	23.7	14.2
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	...	12.8	-3.5	0.0	-7.2	33.7	2.7
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.7	0.1	2.0
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	...	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.7
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	464,665	502,460	224,235	244,305	33,920	967,125
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	62,155	87,130	38,725	46,640	1,765	149,285
Number of communities	...	40	256	104	151	1	296
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	7	24	15	9	0	31
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	...	18	9	14	6	0	10
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	409,615	154,620	114,390	40,230	0	564,235
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	88	31	51	16	0	58
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	53,195	27,275	19,675	7,600	0	80,470
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	86	31	51	16	0	54

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

**Table A.13 Selected characteristics of aging, Alberta, 1986 to 2006**

	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	Predominantly rural regions				All regions
			All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	2,237,030	...	1,053,220	689,445	310,695	53,080	3,290,250
As percent of total	68	...	32	21	9	2	100
Number of seniors in 2006	231,195	...	122,195	90,240	30,905	1,050	353,390
As percent of total	...	...	35	26	9	0	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	10	...	12	13	10	2	11
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	54.4	...	25.1	25.7	22.7	54.0	42.1
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	39.0	...	21.4	21.0	21.7	59.1	32.4
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	2.1	...	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.7	1.8
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	1.0	...	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.8
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	2,237,030	...	1,052,785	689,010	310,695	53,080	3,289,815
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	231,195	...	122,180	90,225	30,905	1,050	353,375
Number of communities	11	...	60	34	24	2	71
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	10	...	29	16	13	0	39
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	91	...	48	47	54	0	55
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	2,184,875	...	424,730	289,445	135,285	0	2,609,605
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	98	...	40	42	44	0	79
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	225,780	...	58,895	43,630	15,265	0	284,675
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	98	...	48	48	49	0	81

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.



Table A.14 Selected characteristics of aging, British Columbia, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	Predominantly rural regions				Rural northern regions	All regions
			All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro-adjacent regions			
Total population in 2006	2,461,735	...	1,651,755	592,395	956,210	103,150	4,113,490	
As percent of total	60	...	40	14	23	3	100	
Number of seniors in 2006	333,945	...	265,915	100,620	155,180	10,115	599,860	
As percent of total	...	...	44	17	26	2	100	
Seniors as a percent of the total population	14	...	16	17	16	10	15	
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	29.9	...	51.5	61.0	46.0	56.1	38.3	
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	21.9	...	31.7	37.0	28.0	41.1	26.1	
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	-0.1	...	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.8	0.8	
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	0.8	...	3.3	3.6	2.9	3.7	1.8	
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	2,461,735	...	1,651,755	592,395	956,210	103,150	4,113,490	
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	333,945	...	265,915	100,620	155,180	10,115	599,860	
Number of communities	16	...	66	14	41	11	82	
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	9	...	52	12	30	10	61	
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	56	...	79	86	73	91	74	
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	984,790	...	1,177,325	430,115	647,200	100,010	2,162,115	
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	40	...	71	73	68	97	53	
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	135,020	...	190,340	69,770	110,710	9,860	325,360	
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	40	...	72	69	71	97	54	

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

**Table A.15 Selected characteristics of aging, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, 1986 to 2006**

	Predominantly rural regions						All regions
	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	...	...	101,310	...	...	101,310	101,310
As percent of total	...	...	100	...	...	100	100
Number of seniors in 2006	...	...	5,055	...	...	5,055	5,055
As percent of total	...	...	100	...	...	100	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	...	...	5	...	...	5	5
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	...	43.2	...	...	43.2	43.2
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	...	...	53.6	...	...	53.6	53.6
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	...	...	0.4	...	...	0.4	0.4
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	...	...	1.5	...	...	1.5	1.5
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	...	101,310	...	...	101,310	101,310
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	...	...	5,055	...	...	5,055	5,055
Number of communities	...	...	6	...	...	6	6
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	...	...	17	...	...	17	17
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	30,375	...	...	30,375	30,375
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	30	...	...	30	30
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	2,280	...	...	2,280	2,280
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	...	...	45	...	...	45	45

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

Table A.16 Selected characteristics of aging, Canada, 1986 to 2006

	Predominantly urban regions	Intermediate regions	Predominantly rural regions				All regions
			All predominantly rural regions	Rural metro-adjacent regions	Rural non-metro adjacent regions	Rural northern regions	
Total population in 2006	15,897,138	6,330,884	9,384,875	4,833,567	3,922,699	628,609	31,612,897
As percent of total	50	20	30	15	12	2	100
Number of seniors in 2006	2,047,090	862,845	1,425,125	733,075	639,720	52,330	4,335,060
As percent of total	47	20	33	17	15	1	100
Seniors as a percent of the total population	13	14	15	15	16	8	14
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	34.1	36.3	25.5	26.8	23.7	32.2	31.5
Percent change in the number of seniors, 1996 to 2006	23.3	27.8	19.6	21.5	16.7	29.4	22.9
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1986 <sup>1</sup> to 1996 <sup>1</sup>	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.9	1.1	1.5
Percentage point change in the share of the population that was senior, 1996 to 2006	1.1	1.7	2.1	1.7	2.5	2.0	1.5
Total population in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	15,897,070	6,328,255	9,367,340	4,831,550	3,907,465	628,325	31,592,665
Number of seniors in 2006 (excluding communities with a population of 250 or less)	2,047,090	862,535	1,422,625	732,865	637,460	52,300	4,332,250
Number of communities	137	433	1,885	737	1,087	61	2,455
Number of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	88	220	732	283	414	35	1,040
Percent of communities which were "aging" <sup>2</sup>	64	51	39	38	38	57	42
Total population (2006) of "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	12,180,290	4,882,905	5,413,530	2,643,575	2,391,760	378,195	22,476,725
Percent of total population living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	77	77	58	55	61	60	71
Population of seniors (2006) in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	1,563,620	680,740	876,540	432,310	403,215	41,015	3,120,900
Percent of seniors living in "aging" <sup>2</sup> communities	76	79	62	59	63	78	72

1. Refers to the non-institutional population (Appendix C).

2. Aging in terms of both the share of seniors and the absolute number of seniors in both the 1986 to 1996 period and the 1996 to 2006 period.

Communities with 250 persons or less were not included in the analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, numbers do not equal Statistics Canada's published census figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986, 1996 and 2006.

## **Appendix B The trend in "aging" at the Canada level**

The objective of this bulletin is to show the rural-urban differences in the "aging" of the population.

As background, this appendix reviews the trends in "aging" at the Canada level.

### **Brief description of assumptions used in each projection**

**Projection scenario 1: low-growth:** The low-growth scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate that reaches 1.3 births per woman in 2016 and remains constant thereafter; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.1 years for males and 85.3 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.55% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on an average of the recent trends and the west coast trends assumptions.

**Projection scenario 2: medium-growth, recent migration trends:** The medium-growth and recent migration trends scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.7% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 2000 and 2003.

**Projection scenario 3: medium-growth, medium migration trends:** The medium-growth and medium migration trends scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.7% until 2031

and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on an average of the recent trends and the west coast trends assumptions.

**Projection scenario 4: medium-growth, west coast migration trends:** The medium-growth and west coast migration trends scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.7% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 1988 and 1996.

**Projection scenario 5: medium-growth, central-west migration trends:** The medium-growth and central-west migration trends scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.7% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 1996 and 2000.

**Projection scenario 6: high-growth:** The high-growth scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate that reaches 1.7 births per woman in 2016 and remain constant thereafter; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 82.6 years for males and 86.6 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.85% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on an average of the recent trends and the west coast trends assumptions.

**Projection scenario 7: low natural increase and high immigration:** The low natural increase and high immigration scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate that reaches 1.3 births per woman in 2016 and remain constant thereafter; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.1 years for males and 85.3 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.85% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 1996 and 2000.

**Projection scenario 8: high natural increase and low immigration:** The high natural increase and low immigration scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate that reaches 1.7 births per woman in 2016 and remain constant thereafter; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 82.6 years for males and 86.6 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.55% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 1996 and 2000.

**Projection scenario 9: high immigration:** The high immigration scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.85% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 1988 and 1996.

**Projection scenario 10: low immigration:** The low immigration scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an

international immigration rate of 0.55% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 1988 and 1996.

**Projection scenario 11: high fertility:** The high fertility scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate that reaches 1.7 births per woman in 2016 and remain constant thereafter; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.7% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 2000 and 2003.

**Projection scenario 12: low fertility:** The low fertility scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate that reaches 1.3 births per woman in 2016 and remain constant thereafter; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 0.7% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on the trends observed between 2000 and 2003.

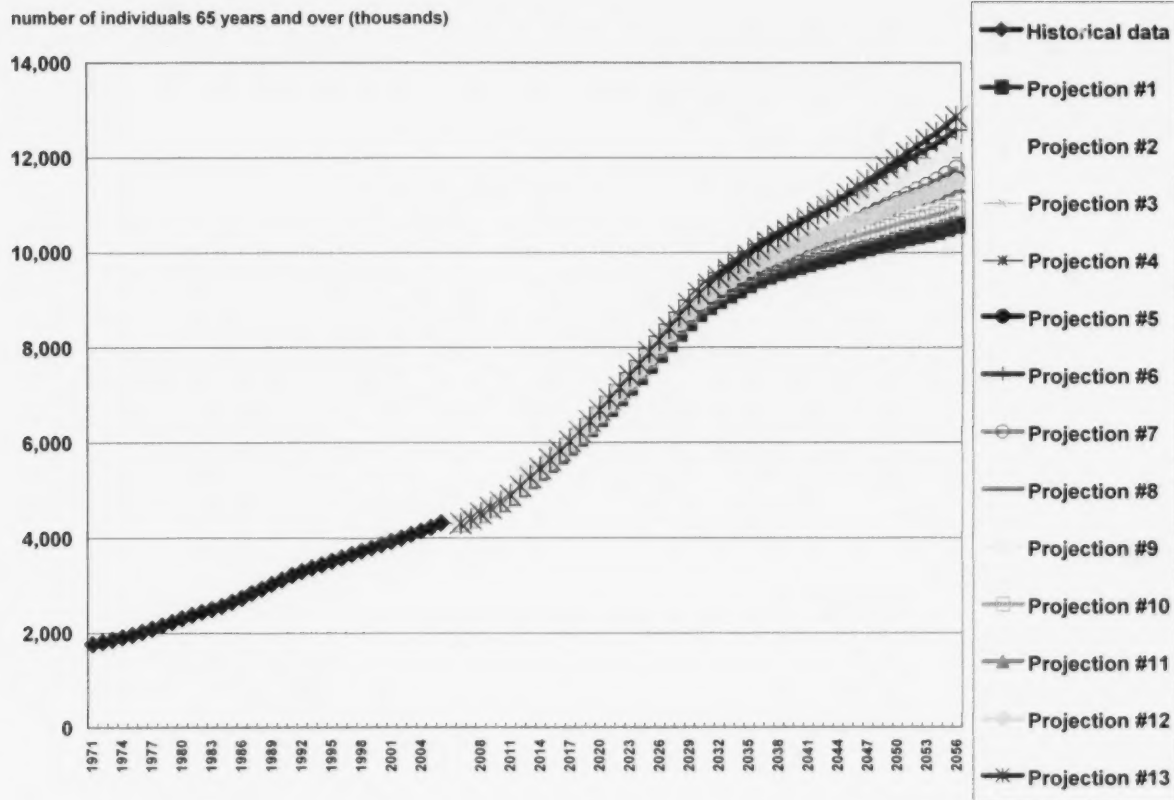
**Projection scenario 13: 1% immigration:** The 1% immigration scenario is defined by the following assumptions: a Canadian total fertility rate constant at 1.5 births per woman; a Canadian life expectancy that reaches 81.9 years for males and 86.0 years for females in 2031; an international immigration rate of 1% until 2031 and then the same number of immigrants that this represents in 2031 is added each year from 2031 until 2056; inter-provincial migrations based on an average of the recent trends and the west coast trends assumptions.

For details on the assumptions embedded in each projection scenario, see Statistics Canada (2005).

First, not surprisingly, the number of seniors (specifically, the population 65 years of age and over) has steadily increased since 1971 and is

projected to continue to increase through to 2056 (Figure B.1).

**Figure B.1 Projected continuous growth in the number of seniors in Canada**



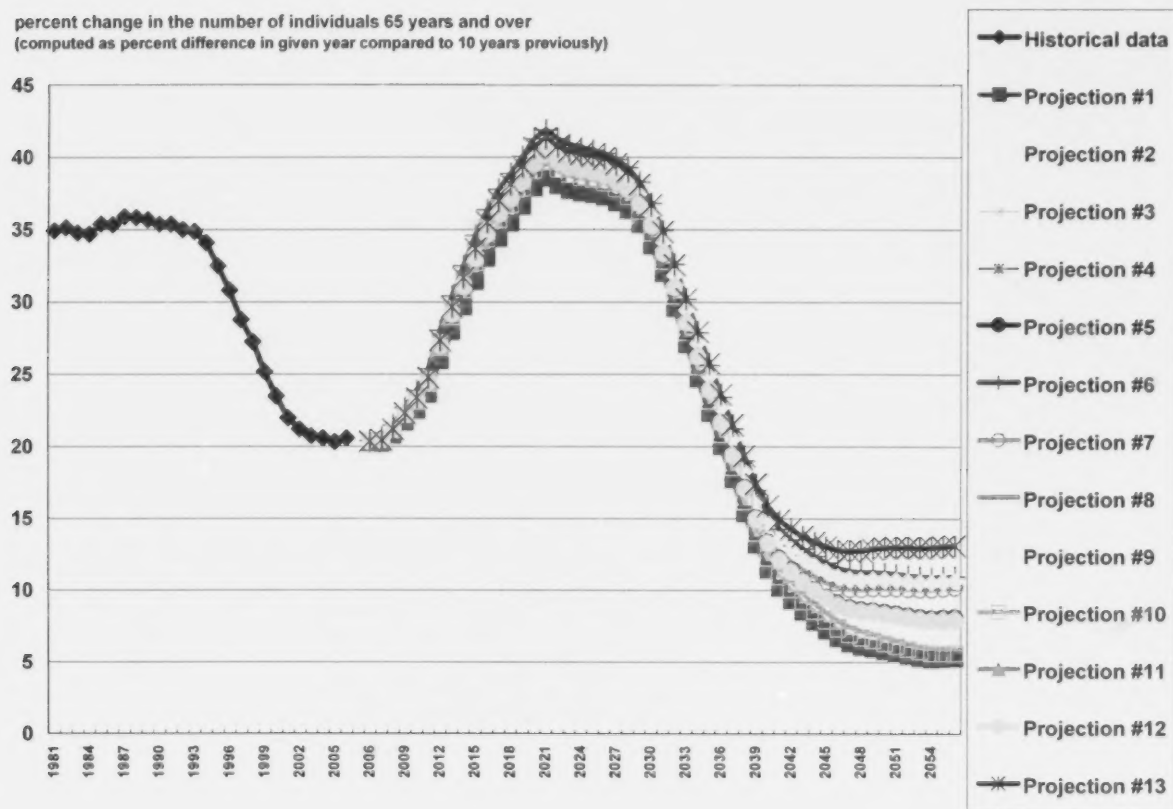
Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0004.



One measure of “aging” is the growth in the number of seniors. In the main text of this bulletin, the growth from 1986 to 1996 and from 1996 to 2006 was presented. Here, the historical trend in this calculated 10-year rate of growth is shown. Specifically, in each year, the calculated percent difference in the given year, compared to 10 years earlier, is shown.

As shown above, the 1986 to 1996 growth in the number of seniors was 31% and the 1996 to 2006 growth was lower at 23%. Here, the calculated 10-year growth was about 35% in the period from 1971 to 1993 and this rate of growth slowed to about 20% in the 2004 to 2007 period (Figure B.2). However, this growth rate is projected to increase to between 38% and 41% in 2021 (i.e. the number of seniors in 2021 is projected to be 38% to 41% higher than the number in 2011).

**Figure B.2 In the 2004 to 2007 period, the growth in the number of seniors was low (compared to 10 years earlier)**

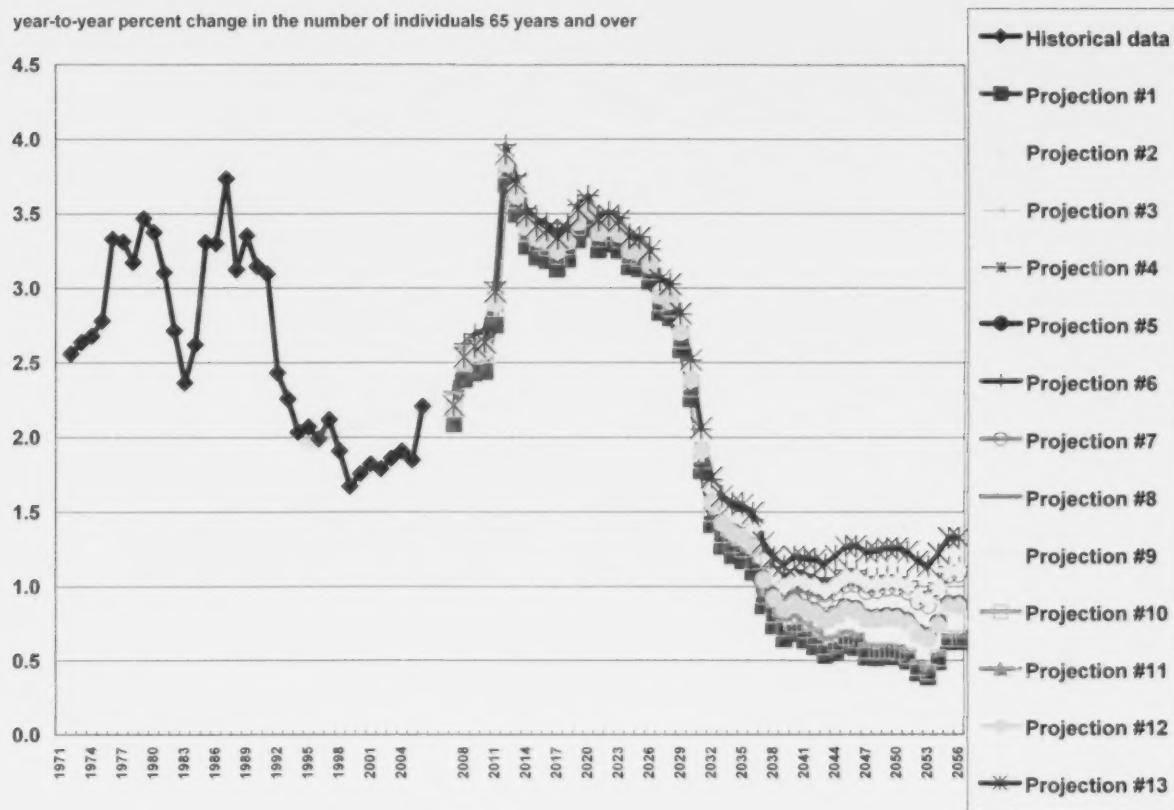


Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0004.

Figure B.2 puts the 10-year rate of growth calculation into historical context. Another way of showing the same information is to calculate the year-to-year percent change in the number of seniors. Here, it can be seen that the lowest year-to-year growth in the number of seniors was in

1999 (due to a low number of births in 1934 in the middle of the Depression) and the largest year-to-year increase in the number of seniors is projected to be in 2012, due to the large number of births in 1947, immediately after World War II (Figure B.3).

**Figure B.3 Year-to-year growth in the number of seniors was lowest in Canada in 1999**

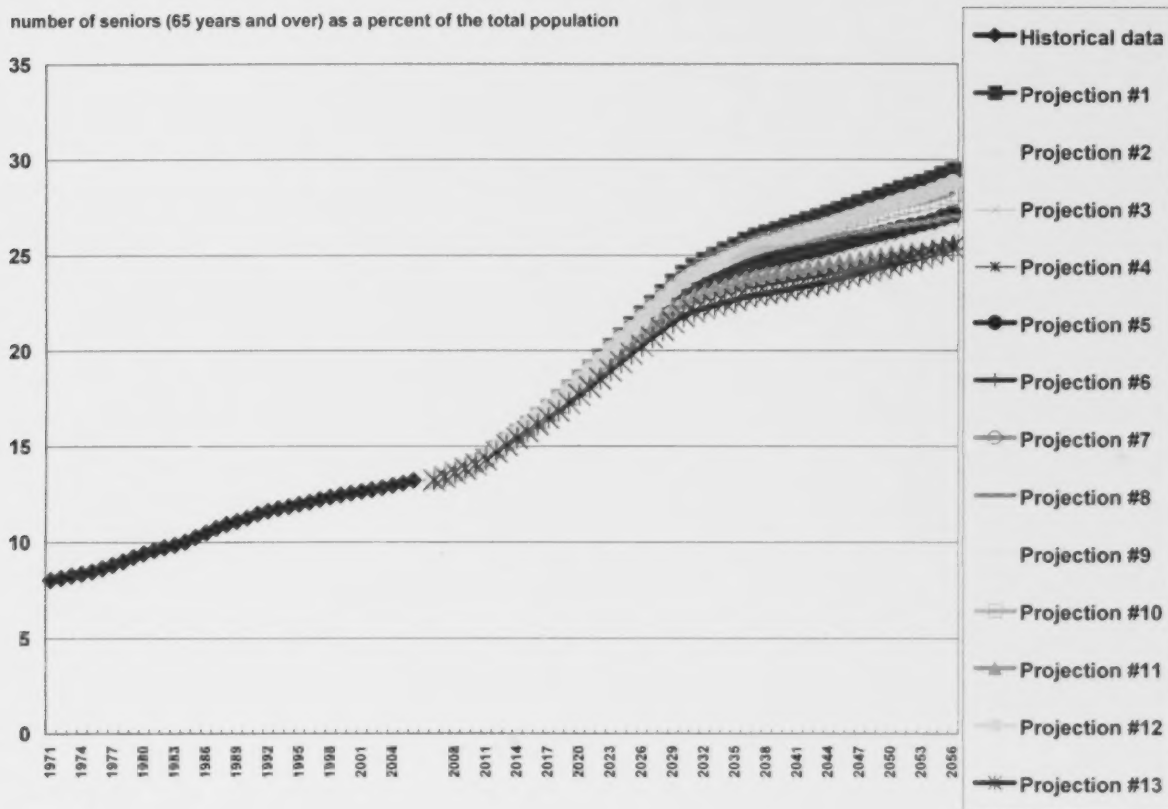


Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0004.

The other measure of aging is the change in the share of the population that is senior. Again, not surprisingly, the share of Canada's population that

is 65 years of age and older has been increasing since 1971 and is projected to increase through to 2056 (Figure B.4).

**Figure B.4 Continuous increase in the number of seniors as a percent of the total population**

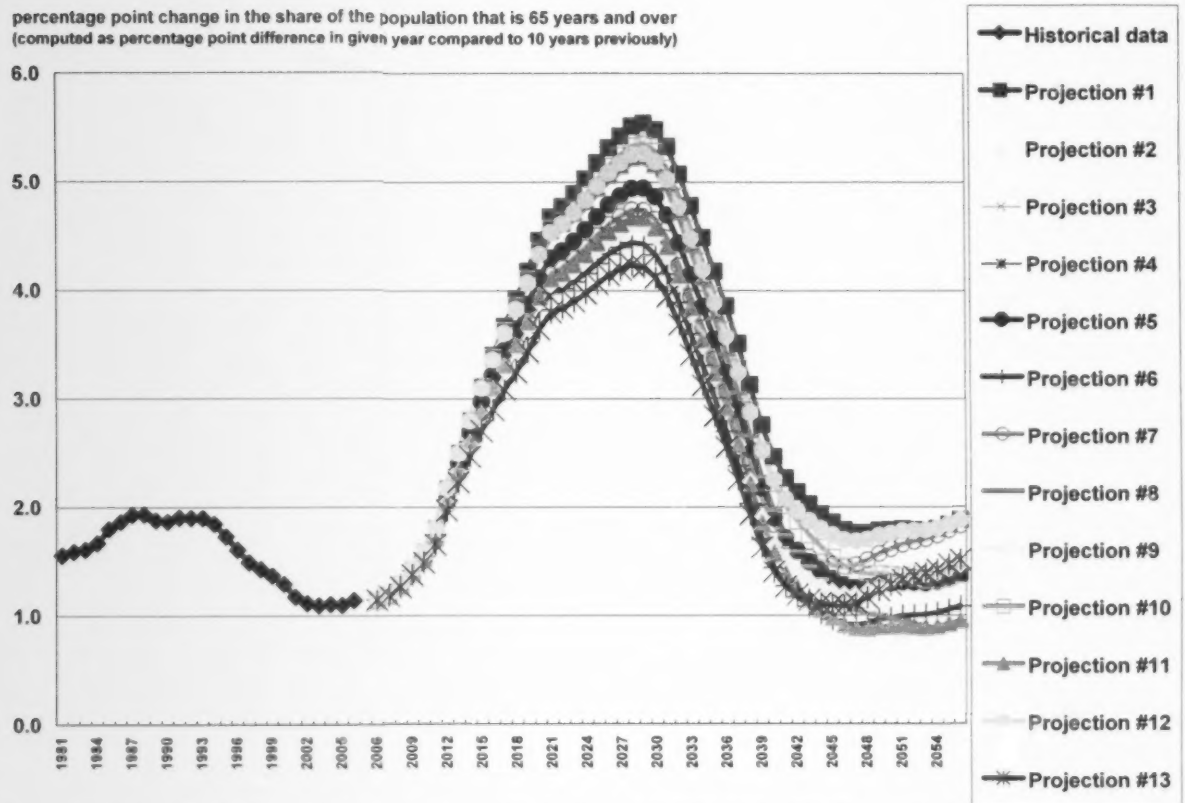


Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0004.

Above, it was noted that the share of the population that was senior increased by 1.5 percentage points from 1986 to 1996 and again by 1.5 percentage points from 1996 to 2006. Here, the historical trend in this calculation is shown – specifically, for each year, the share of the population that is senior is compared to the share 10 years earlier. From 1987 to 1993, the share of

the population that was senior was nearly 2 percentage points higher than 10 years earlier (Figure B.5). In the 2002 to 2006 period, the share was only 1.1 percentage point higher than 10 years previously. Note, however, that the share in 2028 is projected to be 4.2 to 5.5 percentage points higher than in 2018.

**Figure B.5 The share of the population that was senior was only 1.1 percentage points higher in 2006, compared to 1996**

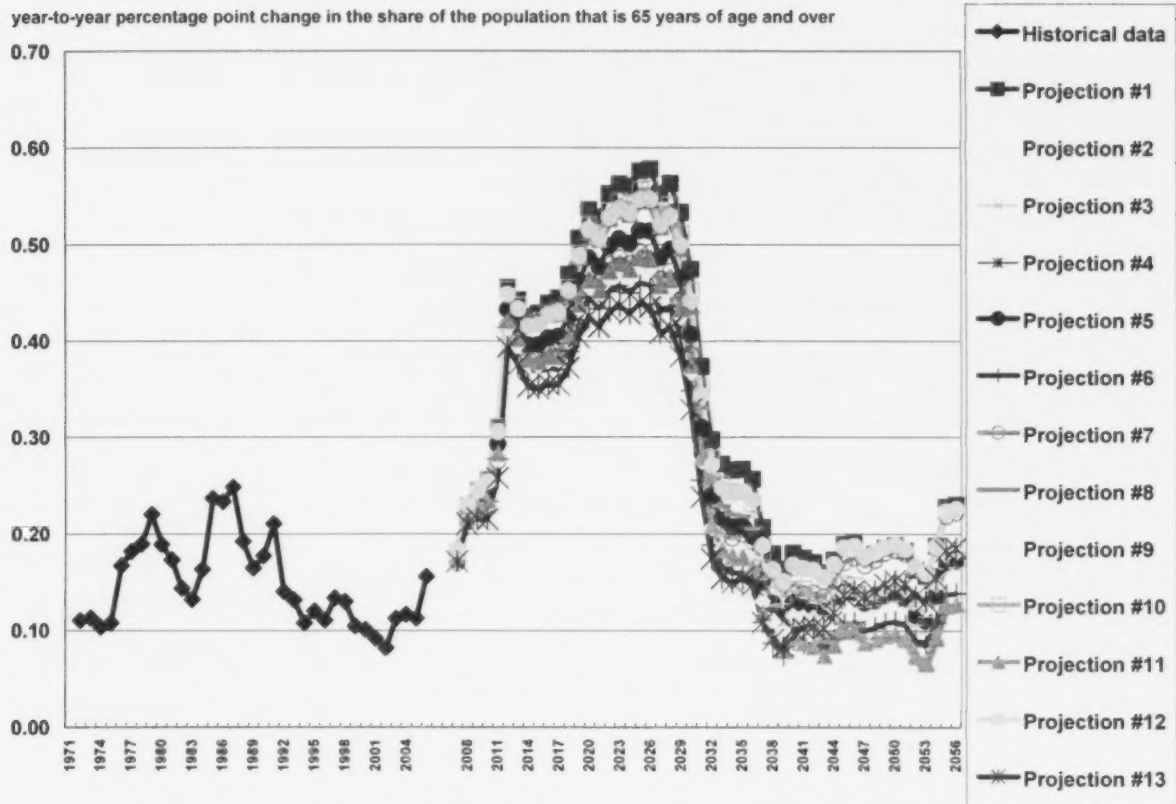


Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0004.

Figure B.5 puts the calculation of the change in shares for the 1986 to 1996 and for 1996 to 2006 into historical context. Another way of showing the same information is to calculate the year-to-year percentage point change in the share of the population that is senior. From 1992 to 2005, the

year-to-year increase in the share of the population is senior was less than 0.15 percentage points (Figure B.6). Note that in 2025, the year-to-year increase in the share is projected to be 0.44 to 0.58 percentage points.

**Figure B.6 2002 was the year with the smallest year-to-year change in the share of the population that was 65 years of age and over**



Source: Statistics Canada, Demographic Estimates and Projections, CANSIM Tables 051-0001 and 052-0004.

## Appendix C

Please note that throughout this paper the comparisons between 1986 and 1996 are based on the non-institutional population and the comparisons between 1996 and 2006 are based on the total (institutional plus non-institutional) population. Historical data for this bulletin was derived from a database of socio-economic data tabulated for each CCS (census consolidated subdivision) for each year from 1981 to 2006 using constant 1996 boundaries. The historical data on the population by age class for each CCS was derived from tabulations that included other socio-economic variables. Socio-economic variables (from the long Census of Population questionnaire) are only enumerated for the non-

institutional population and thus the data on population by age class referred only to the non-institutional population. This bulletin was written in the summer of 2007 when 2006 data for the non-institutional population were not available, which necessitated use of the total (institutional plus non-institutional) population data for 2006 (and for 1996 for comparative purposes). In addition, the technical ability to re-tabulate 1981 and 1986 data using non-standard geography (i.e. constant 1996 boundaries) was not available in the summer of 2007. Thus, use of the non-institutional population for 1986 (and for 1996 for comparative purposes) was necessary.



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